

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

A partnership between LFUCG and
the Fayette County Board of
Education



CITY AND SCHOOLS

- The Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government and Fayette County Board of Education have collaborated for years regarding traffic issues around schools.
- The agencies are formalizing their partnership through a joint resolution adopting the Safe Routes to School program (SRTS).



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

- Safe Routes to School is a international program dating to the early 1970's study by the U.S. Department of Transportation
- It provides research and resources on the safety of children walking and bicycling to school
- In 2005, Congress passed federal legislation that established a National Safe Routes to School program to improve safety on walking and bicycling routes to school and to encourage children and families to travel between home and school using these modes.
- The program targets infrastructure projects and non-infrastructure activities
- Two primary outcomes of the program are reduced traffic congestion and improved student health



TRAFFIC CONGESTION



FAYETTE COUNTY STUDENTS

- Approximately 18,000 or 44% of the school district's students ride school buses
- The remaining 23,000 students ride in private vehicles or walk



IMPROVED STUDENT HEALTH

- Weight and blood pressure control
- Bone, muscle, and joint health and maintenance
- Reduction in the risk of diabetes
- Improved psychological welfare
- Better academic performance



PILOT PROGRAM IN EAST END

- The East End community has a very high number of “walkers” versus bus riders or students dropped off by private vehicle.
- FCPS wants to see how Safe Routes works in this area first; if successful, they will look into implementing the program county-wide.
- Two East End schools have been identified for the initial pilot program:
 - William Wells Brown Elementary (WWB)
 - Lexington Traditional Magnet School (LTMS)



ROUTES TO SCHOOL

- School staff and administrators are currently working on identifying routes to their respective schools
- Each map and particular route will be inspected by Police to identify any safety concerns and possible infrastructure improvements
- Each school will hold public meeting with students, parents and neighborhood associations
- After routes have been approved by schools, Traffic Engineering and Streets & Roads will assist with crosswalk and signage improvements/installation



SAFE ROUTES TAP GRANT APPLICATION

- The Division of Traffic Engineering submitted a grant application to the Lexington Area MPO under the Transportation Alternative Program for Fayette County Elementary School Zone Enhancements in the SRTS project category.
- The purpose of this project is to ensure that school zones are provided with consistent signage and markings throughout the county in a manner that adheres to the current Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.



SAFE ROUTES TAP GRANT APPLICATION

- If constructed, these improvements will encourage alternative modes of accessing school facilities by providing a safer school zone and connectivity of bicycle and pedestrian routes.
- This application was completed with consultation with FCPS. Based on their initial score/rank of #1, Traffic Engineering is confident that this grant of \$200,000 will be approved.
- If approved, funds would be awarded in late spring / early summer 2015.



RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SRTS

- Fayette County Board of Education passed a resolution in support of SRTS in October 2014.
- A similar resolution from Urban County Council supporting the SRTS partnership would allow the Board of Education to move forward with implementing the pilot program in the East End this year.
- Schools, Police and Traffic Engineering plan to identify, enhance and implement routes by the start of school on August 12, 2015.
- Final report to Council Committee by Fall 2015.



Q & A

Questions?

