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## **BORO MAKES APPLICATION FOR SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**

**Woodbine**—Mayor William Pikolycky is pleased to announce that the Borough of Woodbine has made application to the New Jersey Department of Transportation for three inter-related projects, totaling \$359,600, to be funded under the Safe Routes to School Program.

The area of the project targets the neighborhood north of DeHirsch Avenue and Route 550 and the neighborhood west of Washington Avenue.

The Pedestrian Safety component (\$346,800) is Phase I of a new sidewalk program that will address all areas of the Borough close to the school and library that do not presently have sidewalks on both sides of the street and more distant streets that do not have sidewalks on at least one side of the street. These construction efforts will include curbing and handicapped curb cuts at intersections as necessary. This first Phase will include the east side of Isaac Avenue and the west side of Jefferson Street from Clay Street to Franklin Street, the west side of Adams Avenue from Webster Street to Clay Street, the east side of Madison Avenue from Route 550 to Longfellow Avenue.

Work would include: Installation of paver crosswalks on Route 550 and DeHirsch Avenue at Madison Avenue and at Heilprin Avenue to identify pedestrian crossings; installation of electronic school safety signage that monitors the speed of cars on Webster Street in the school zone and flashing school safety signage along Route 550 at the primary school crossing areas.

The Bikeways component (\$2,000) would install additional bike racks at the school complex, including the school and the recreation center/gymnasium entrances.

The Enforcement component would create a Walking and Bicycling Safety Program. The Woodbine Elementary School staff have examined the International Walk to School in the USA website and copied the Program Administrator's and Teacher's Guides for the Maryland Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Program. This is a comprehensive Program for Grades K through 5. Further investigation of the various Safe Routes to School websites are being examined to customize this program for Woodbine and to provide lessons for Grades 6 through 8. Brochures will be purchased for mailing to all households with students. Additionally, a program will be developed to encourage parents to volunteer to work with the school to monitor various crossing areas on major roadways and/or to escort groups of students to school on a rotating basis. The provision of bike racks and bicycle helmets will promote bicycling to school and further enhance the safety of the children. It includes funding the cost of two crossing guards for Route 550 for the school year 2008-2009 while the Route 49 bridge is under reconstruction, at a cost of \$10,800.

"We want to thank the Department of Transportation for securing a consultant, the Baker Group, whose evaluation greatly assisted in identifying the safety needs addressed in this application concerning pedestrian traffic, especially our school children," noted Mayor Pikolycky