

PRESS RELEASE

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Woodbine—Mayor William Pikolycky is pleased to announce that the Borough of Woodbine has made application to the New Jersey Department of Transportation 2007 Safe Routes to School Program for funding in the amount of \$241,000.

The Safe Routes to School initiative, part of an international effort, facilitates the practice of walking or biking, safely, to school thus cutting down on the use of motor vehicles, with their cost, congestion, and pollution potential.

With courtesy busing eliminated over the past few years, all students must transport themselves to Woodbine Elementary School, which is intersected by six County roads, one of which is also a State Highway.

While the Borough has done much previously in the past towards sidewalk construction and other traffic related programs, Safe Routes to School addresses pedestrian/bicycle safety from several angles.

Additional sidewalk construction with curbing and handicapped curb cuts is being proposed for DeSantis Drive from Webster to Madison, Issacs Avenue from Clay to DeHirsch, Jackson Street from Webster to DeHirsch, Jefferson Street from DeHirsch to Longfellow, and Clay Street from Grant to Lincoln under Phase I of this program. Electronic signage that monitors the speed of cars on Webster Street in the school zone would make motorists acutely aware of their proximity to the school zone and the concomitant requirement to slow down to 15 mph in that area. Installation of additional bike racks at the school complex will encourage biking to the school, recreation/gymnasium facility, and to the new branch library.

At the same time, the Woodbine Elementary School will be implementing a comprehensive, curriculum-based, instructional program concerning pedestrian/bike safety. Brochures will be mailed to all households with students. 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.

"I am pleased that the federal government has recognized the importance of providing funding for such a worthwhile project, particularly in communities such as ours. Although the infrastructure of sidewalks and curbs is important for safety, the larger component of this initiative is the educational and informational aspect, promoting safe walking and biking throughout the community," added Mayor Pikolycky.