

NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

George N. Campbell, Commissioner

For Immediate Release

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Contacts: John Corrigan
Safe Routes to Schools
Coordinator
(603) 271-1980
Bill Boynton
Public Information Office
(603) 271-6495

**SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL FUNDS MORE THAN \$1 MILLION
IN PROJECTS IN 25 NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMUNITIES**

Grants totaling more than a million dollars will help New Hampshire communities encourage and enable children to safely walk and ride bicycles to school. Commissioner George N. Campbell Jr. of the NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT) has approved the grants in the Round Two funding cycle for Safe Routes to School (SRTS). Twenty-five cities and towns that are home to 41 schools will use the funds for everything from preliminary planning to construction of new sidewalks.

“We are encouraged that these localities have stepped up to join the communities awarded grants in Round 1,” said John W. Corrigan, the NHDOT’s SRTS coordinator. “The high price of motor fuels, a desire to reduce traffic congestion, a recognition that idling motor vehicles contribute to air pollution and global warming, and the opportunity to chip away at an epidemic of childhood overweight and obesity have combined to encourage communities to get kids outside and active.”

Schools participating in SRTS represent the wide diversity of New Hampshire communities. They range from small towns like Antrim and Bristol to the cities of Manchester and Nashua. Major infrastructure grants will reimburse localities for new sidewalks in communities scattered from Franconia to Brookline. In Manchester, the SRTS project will focus on education, encouragement and law enforcement efforts.

SRTS will fund comprehensive school travel plans for schools in Nashua, Lebanon and Portsmouth. NHDOT awarded startup grants of up to \$5,000 to 11 communities hosting 15 schools. For a full list of communities awarded grants in Round 2, visit the SRTS Web site at: http://www.nh.gov/dot/bureaus/planning/SRTS_home.htm

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