

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

*Charles P. O'Leary, Commissioner*

**For Immediate Release**

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**FIRST ROUND OF "SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL" FUNDING AWARDED**

Ten New Hampshire communities have been recognized for efforts to encourage children to safely walk or ride bicycles to school.

Their projects have been approved for a total of \$495,952 in the first round of funding under the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program administered by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Approved infrastructure projects include crosswalk and path improvements in Portsmouth, new sidewalks on school property in Andover, Concord, Gorham and Hopkinton, and upgrades and repairs to the "Tiger Trail" sidewalk network in Farmington. New Ipswich plans to build a sidewalk along a busy state highway. SRTS will also help fund BikeSmart, an organization providing bicycle safety education to schools throughout the state.

The NHDOT also encouraged unsuccessful applicants and new participants to initiate or continue planning efforts. A second round is anticipated in early 2008.

Communities participating in SRTS take a comprehensive approach to safe walking and cycling to school. Evaluation, education, encouragement, and law enforcement efforts complement construction projects. Visit the SRTS web link at [http://www.nh.gov/dot/bureaus/planning/SRTS\\_home.htm](http://www.nh.gov/dot/bureaus/planning/SRTS_home.htm)

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