



FORSYTHCOUNTY
Department of Communications

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORSYTH COUNTY AWARDED GRANT
FOR ‘SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS’

Grant to fund trail system for students to bike or walk to school

FORSYTHCOUNTY, Georgia – The Georgia Department of Transportation has awarded Forsyth County a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grant of nearly \$500,000. The grant will fund the design and construction of a trail system for the Vickery Creek Elementary and Middle School campuses, allowing students to walk or bike to school. Such a trail system is expected to enhance student safety, reduce traffic congestion in the area and lead to improved student health resulting from physical activity.

“Currently, there are no connecting sidewalks or foot paths surrounding these schools and safety is a concern of parents and school staff,” District 3 Commissioner Jim Harrell said. “This trail system will provide a safe route students can travel on to and from school. As more and more students either walk or ride their bike to school, our roadways will become less congested. Plus, one option for the trail system plan being considered is possible connectivity to the county’s Big Creek Greenway.”

Forsyth County government worked closely with representatives from Forsyth County Schools in submitting the SRTS grant request. The two groups will collaborate with engineers from the Georgia Department of Transportation as the project moves forward.

“Forsyth County Schools is pleased to partner with Forsyth County government to provide infrastructure improvements to the Vickery Creek Elementary and Middle School campuses,” Superintendent Buster Evans said. “These enhancements will allow our students and families to have a safe alternative form of access to the schools. Additionally, the trail system will enhance our physical education and health programs, providing a great opportunity for more physical activity.”

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Other Forsyth County schools support Safe Routes to Schools activities, including Mashburn Elementary School who will be participating in the Walk to School Day May 19. Mashburn students, parents and staff will be walking from Publix to school beginning at 7:30 a.m.

Safe Routes to School is a national program to improve the health and well-being of children by enabling and encouraging them to walk and bicycle to school. The program funds projects that improve safety and reduce traffic and air pollution in areas surrounding schools. No matching funds from the county are required for the grant. The Forsyth County Board of Commissioners will need to approve acceptance of the grant at an upcoming meeting prior to the project moving forward.

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