

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. **B(5)**

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT MEETING DATE: December 4, 2007

TITLE: A Resolution in Support of Applying for a North Carolina Safe Routes to School Grant

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING	PUBLIC HEARING: YES __ NO _ X _
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution B. SRTS workshop summary	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Adena Messinger, Transportation Planner - 918-7329

PURPOSE

Town staff has prepared a resolution for consideration by the Board of Aldermen in support of staff going forward with applying for a Safe Routes to School grant, and in support of the Town serving as the lead agency in the event that a grant is awarded to the Town.

INFORMATION

The North Carolina Department of Transportation, Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation has issued a call for several types of Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grants. The SRTS program is "...a program that enables and encourages children to walk and bicycle to school; makes walking and bicycling to school a safe and more appealing transportation option, and facilitates the planning, development, and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of school."

In the spring of 2005, the Town of Carrboro participated in a SRTS workshop at Carrboro Elementary. A summary of that workshop is provided in Attachment B. Each school/community that participated in a SRTS workshop has been offered the opportunity to apply for a SRTS Demonstration Grant. The demonstration program is a grant reimbursement program. This competitive reimbursement program is 100% federally funded – no local match is required. Grant recipients must be able to cover the costs of the project and will be reimbursed during the course of project implementation.

NCDOT anticipates funding 4 to 8 demonstration projects, based on the following limitations:

- Funding requests must be \$100,000 at a minimum.
- The maximum amount available for reimbursement to any one project awarded cannot exceed \$250,000.

There are 26 schools in North Carolina that have been invited to apply for the demonstration grant opportunity, one of which is Carrboro Elementary.

In addition to the demonstration grants, the SRTS program has also issued a call for applications for the Action Plan Service Award and the Non-infrastructure Reimbursement Program. An Action Plan Service Award will “provide assistance to help a school or community begin a Safe Routes to School program through the development of a plan.” The Non-infrastructure Reimbursement Program “will provide funds for education, encouragement, enforcement, and evaluation programs and activities.” Any elementary or middle school in North Carolina is eligible to apply for either of these grants. Further information about these grants is at <http://www.ncdot.org/transit/bicycle/saferoutes/SafeRoutes.html>

A requirement for any of the SRTS applications is a resolution from the lead agency, in support of the application and administration of a grant (see Attachment A).

Staff is interested in applying for these grants, pursuant to Board approval and support from the schools.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact with applying for a Safe Routes to School grant.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The town staff recommends that the Board of Aldermen adopt the attached resolution.