

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE TOWN OF CARRBORO APPLYING FOR
AND ADMINISTERING THE NORTH CAROLINA
SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAMS**

Resolution No. 71/2007-08

WHEREAS the North Carolina Department of Transportation is accepting applications for Safe Routes to School infrastructure, non-infrastructure, and planning grants; and

WHEREAS the Safe Routes to School infrastructure and non-infrastructure grant programs are reimbursement programs to fund programs and improvements that can help make bicycling and walking to and from school safe and healthy transportation alternatives; and

WHEREAS the action planning grant program is a service award grant program that awards the grantee a consultant for developing an action plan for safe travel to and from school; and

WHEREAS the Town of Carrboro participated in a Safe Routes to School workshop in April 2005;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Carrboro Board of Aldermen supports the application for any of the Safe Routes to School grant programs from the Town of Carrboro; and supports the Town as the Lead Agency responsible for entering into a contract with NCDOT and administering a grant if awarded.

SR2S Summary Outline

I. Background

The April 28, 2005 Safe Routes to School training course in Carrboro, NC focused on Carrboro Elementary School. This school is located near downtown Carrboro and is adjacent to the traditional Carrboro mill village housing. Surrounding the school are a number of single-family homes, higher density apartment complexes, a church, and the Frances Lloyd Shetley multi-use path.

Carrboro Elementary has 566 students enrolled in grades Pre-K-5. One hundred twenty of these students are from different Latin American countries. Currently, many of the children attending Carrboro Elementary live in a “walk zone” and walk or bicycle to school. There are currently sidewalks on many of the streets in the walk zone, and sidewalks are planned for many other surrounding streets as part of a \$4.6 million sidewalk bond program approved by voters in 2003. There are school crossing guards on Hillsborough Street and on Shelton Street for school arrival and dismissal times.

Carrboro Elementary students, staff and administration have taken many steps toward promoting a bicycle and pedestrian friendly school environment. Several years ago, students and staff at Carrboro Elementary assisted NCDOT in the development of its “Basics of Bicycling” curriculum for training elementary school students. The SR2S training program was very useful in identifying areas where additional improvements are needed.

II. Overview of Participants

Participants in the training course included parents and representatives from the Town of Carrboro, Carrboro-Chapel Hill City Schools, and the N.C. Department of Transportation. A list of the participants is attached.

Two participants from the Town of Carrboro, the Police Chief and Planning Administrator, also are parents of children that attend Carrboro Elementary. Other participants from the Town of Carrboro were the Community and Economic Development Director, Facilities Administrator from the Recreation and Parks Department, Public Works Director, and Transportation Planner.

In addition to those mentioned above, four other parents attended the event. Two of these parents are employed by organizations that promote active living and healthy lifestyles, and brought a useful perspective to the training. One of the other parents is an engineer by training and also chair of the Town of Carrboro Sidewalk Review Committee.

Six representatives from the school system were present, including the Assistant Principal for Carrboro Elementary, the schools system’s Transportation Director, and the nurse, school social worker, and P.E. teacher. The Principal was also present for the lunchtime portion of the program.

Finally, two other transportation professionals were present: a traffic engineer with the N.C. Department of Transportation and the Transportation Planner for Orange County.

III. Vision

Below is a summary of the visions that were shared by participants at the beginning of the training:

- Kids able to take the bus, walk to school
- Safety at edges of school zone
- Able to bike to school
- Increase connectivity
- Driver education and physical activity important
- Promote bicycling and physical activity for students and staff
- Increase number of kids biking and walking to school, increase safety.
- Use kids to teach parents.
- Decrease parent concern with safety. Media have encouraged fear of crime. Carrboro is in good shape, a few isolated incidents.
- Parents are fearful. Thin out trees behind school.
- Business, residential services interest.
- Decrease single occupant vehicle traffic, increase sidewalks and bike access
- Incentives to parents to walk more
- Make it ped/bike friendly throughout the state.
- Helping different transportation mode users know how to get along – drivers, peds, cyclists

IV. Action Plan: Four E's Strategy

ENCOURAGEMENT

Encouragement focused on the following:

- Mileage club
- Contests
- Gold sneaker award
- Events
- Integrate SR2S with existing “Cubs in Motion” and “Walk to School” programs
- Provide maps with routes to all families
- Start with achievable: 1 or 2 walking school buses on one day a week to test interest
- Walking Wednesday program
- Walk your dog to school
- Have classes “walk the world”

EDUCATION

Education focused on the following:

- Stop at stop signs
- Slow down
- Exit car onto curb

- Obey traffic signs, signals, and guards
- Wear helmets
- Reduce car usage
- Increase city bus usage
- Universal bike-ped driver safety for school community
- Training to defuse fear of stranger danger and build capacity for making decisions about safety
- Incorporate SR2S, “Basics of Bicycling,” and other programs into curriculum and present to all school community members

ENFORCEMENT

Enforcement focused on the following:

- Ticketing schemes
- Decoy cars
- Signage
- Traffic speed checks and trailers
- Speed monitor on Greensboro Street (part of walk zone)
- Constant monitoring and measuring of results to test effectiveness of enforcement
- Fight to save town \$ for crossing guards
- Increase number of crossing guards
- Regular security walk throughs
- Cross out the parking spaces outside the church
- Loading zone sign outside church is unclear

ENGINEERING

Engineering focused on the following:

- Complete crosswalk at Ashe and Shelton; location should match new sidewalk to be constructed by Town of Carrboro
- Improve visibility in front of Todd Street entrance
- Complete sidewalk along 400/500 block of W. Main (in front of AC Fitness)
- Encourage on-street parking, intersection improvements (move ramps / curb cuts) along W. Main from Weaver to Poplar
- Explore roundabout at Hillsborough / West Main / Shelton intersection
- Extend bike lanes through intersection of Hillsborough and W. Main
- Look at adding marked crosswalks on N. Greensboro to serve Spring Valley and Bolin Forest
- Take back the woods – use to educate and encourage understanding of the inter-relatedness of the school in the community and vice versa.
- Look at adding marked crosswalks on N. Greensboro at Oak Avenue
- Add crosswalks on W. Main Street between Laurel and Poplar
- Improve crosswalks on Main and Hillsborough near school
- Remove on-street parking on Shelton Street near church

V. Commitments/Follow-up for post-workshop

There were various commitments made by members of the group. Several of these commitments were as follows:

- Look at ways to deal with unsafe driver behavior;
- Look at low cost engineering & education strategies;
- Look over materials on internet & see how I can apply to review of new school plans, etc.;
- Community education/advocacy;
- School-based advocacy efforts for walking, biking, fitness & alternatives to car culture;
- Keeping group together & keeping options on table in various settings;
- Education of school community, immediate issues to address concerns (paint, cones, etc);
- Walking Wednesday & Park & Walk;
- Plan to share info with other staff and encourage the SR2S program ideas on bike, ped safety into our programs

VI. Future Plans

As school begins in the fall, the site coordinators plan to follow up with individual participants over time and discuss how to move forward.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM SIGN-IN SHEET

School:	Carrboro Elementary	Meeting Date:	April 26, 2005		
Facilitators:	Patricia McGuire / Dale McKeel	Place/Room:	Carrboro Town Hall – Board Room		

Name	Title	Company	Phone	Fax	E-Mail
Mary Lin Truelove	Transportation Director	Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools	919-942-5045	919-969-2466	mltruelove@chccs.k12.nc.us
Kokeita Miller	Facilities Administrator	Carrboro Rec & Parks Dept.	919-918-7384	919-918-4476	kmiller@townofcarrboro.org
James Harris	Community & Economic Development Director	Town of Carrboro	919-918-7310		jharris@townofcarrboro.org
Jason Julian	Traffic Engineer	NCDOT, Division 7	336-256-0551		jjulian@dot.state.nc.us
Rich Bell*	Project Officer	Active Living	919-967-0014	919-843-3083	rich_bell@unc.edu
Dale McKeel	Transportation Planner	Town of Carrboro	919-918-7329	919-918-4454	dmckeel@townofcarrboro.org
Ashley Osment*	School Governance Committee	Carrboro Elementary	919-843-9807	919-968-1566	lawyers@mcsurely.com
Rita Crain	Carrboro Nurse	Carrboro Elementary	919-942-9470	919-969-2476	rcrain@chccs.k12.nc.us
George Seiz	Public Works Director	Town of Carrboro	919-918-7427		gseiz@townofcarrboro.org
Karen Lincoln	Transportation Planner	Orange County	919-245-2594	919-644-3002	klincoln@oc.orange.nc.us
Carolyn Hutchinson*	Chief of Police	Town of Carrboro	919-918-7412	919-942-4473	chutchinson@townofcarrboro.org
Kerry Sherrill	School Social Worker	Carrboro Elementary			

Trish McGuire*	Planning Administrator	Town of Carrboro	919-918-7327	919-918-4454	pmcguire@townofcarrboro.org
Bobby Gilmore	P.E. Teacher	Carrboro Elementary	919-968-3652 ext. 241		bgilmore@chccs.k12.nc.us
Renee Duckenfield	Assistant Principal	Carrboro Elementary	919-968-3652 ext. 224		
Ibis Nunez	Principal	Carrboro Elementary			
Andreas Hay*	Chair, Carrboro Sidewalk Review Committee				ahay@mcihispeed.net
Meg Malloy*	N.C. Prevention Partners				meg@ncpreventionpartners.org

* Parent of a child who attends Carrboro Elementary