



PROJECT BACKGROUND

NJ Safe Routes to School (SRTS) mission: enable and encourage students to safely walk and bicycle to school

- Federal grant allows for federal funding reimbursement for bicycle/pedestrian safety improvements, within 2 miles of a K-8 school, where there is a considerable percentage of students who walk/bike to school.
- The funds are administered by NJDOT division of local aid and economic development.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM

- Increasing the health and mobility of school-age (grades K - 8) children, including those with disabilities
- Reducing congestion, air pollution and traffic conflicts around schools
- Establish healthy lifetime habits for students
- Increasing children's independence
- Helping them arrive at school ready to learn
- Teaching safe pedestrian, bicyclist and driver skills

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL - THE SIX E'S

Engagement

All safe routes to school initiatives should begin by listening to students, families, teachers, and school leaders and working with existing community organizations, and build intentional, ongoing engagement opportunities into the program structure.

Equity

Ensuring that safe routes to school initiatives are benefiting all demographic groups, with particular attention to ensuring safe, healthy, and fair outcomes for low-income students, students of color, students of all genders, students with disabilities, and others.

Engineering

Creating physical improvements to streets and neighborhoods that make walking and bicycling safer, more comfortable, and more convenient.

Encouragement

Generating enthusiasm and increased walking and bicycling for students through events, activities, and programs.

Education

Providing students and the community with the skills to walk and bicycle safely, educating them about benefits of walking and bicycling, and teaching them about the broad range of transportation choices.

Evaluation

Assessing which approaches are more or less successful, ensuring that programs and initiatives are supporting equitable outcomes, and identifying unintended consequences or opportunities to improve the effectiveness of each approach.

CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

Design assistance program

- All design fees related to preliminary engineering and final design are reimbursable

Construction costs

- Limited to pedestrian improvements
- Roadway improvements, such as resurfacing are not reimbursable under the SRTS program

Construction inspection costs

- Funds required during construction to inspect and ensure work is being done in compliance with the plans, specifications and federal guidelines are reimbursable

PROJECT INFORMATION

Middletown has received a grant through the Safe Routes To School (SRTS) program to construct pedestrian safety improvements along Hubbard Avenue from West Front Street to Navesink River Road. The goal of the proposed project is to improve upon the existing conditions and create a safe pedestrian corridor to the Township's River Plaza Elementary School to encourage students and residents to utilize the sidewalk infrastructure.

The Township is currently evaluating alternatives to improve pedestrian safety that will encourage students to utilize the sidewalk infrastructure along Hubbard Avenue. The primary project purpose is to improve

pedestrian safety by increasing the sidewalk and buffer width along eastern side of Hubbard Avenue and reconstructing any existing sidewalk to meet ADA standards. Where a grass buffer strip is present, the proposed improvements will replace the existing curb, widen the existing buffer strip to four to six feet wide and increase the sidewalk width to a minimum of five feet wide. In the stretch of sidewalk located along the Shadow Lake Dam, the existing curb will be reconstructed, and the sidewalk located immediately adjacent to the roadway will be increased to seven feet wide. Existing guide rail along this stretch will be reconstructed along the back of sidewalk to meet current standards.

All existing driveways aprons where sidewalk is present will be reconstructed to meet ADA standards and the limits of reconstruction will vary based necessary grading required to meet the existing topography. Existing curb ramps within the project limits will be upgraded to meet current ADA standards. Additionally, to increase visibility and safety, existing crosswalks located at Park Place and in front of the River Plaza Elementary School will be upgraded and equipped with a solar powered pedestrian Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB).

CONSTRUCTION PROCESS - STAGING

Work will be performed:

- During day time hours
- Road will remain open through use of flaggers
- Access maintained to driveways during sidewalk/asphalt curing time within the limits of a driveway, coordination with homeowners may be required, and if necessary, steel plates may be temporarily used to maintain driveway access
- Contractor will not leave any open excavation

SCHEDULE AND COSTS

- SRTS grant allotment: \$1,000,000

Project schedule:

Preliminary Engineering: completed June 2023
Final Design: September 2023 - February 2024
Construction: Summer 2024