

Re: Letter of Support for Safe Routes to School Grant Application

Dear: Mr. John Paris

It is with great enthusiasm that we at _____ add our support as a partner in the application to seek grant funding through the Illinois Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School Program.

We believe outcomes of this grant will result in a better place not only for our children but all city residents. A city where residents are healthier, happier and better connected.

The systematic Safe Routes to School approach starts with conducting walking and biking audits, evaluating needs, surveying parents, school staff and students, and developing an action plan. Funds are made available to improve and build bike lanes, sidewalks, crosswalks, trails, lighting etc., as well as funding for important education and encouragement programs to ensure that this new infrastructure is well used.

We believe the following are some of the positive outcomes and reasons for supporting this grant:

1. Creating a walking and bicycling culture sets habits for an active, healthy lifestyle beginning at an early age.
2. The planning, development, and implementation of projects will reduce traffic congestion and fuel consumption, reduce air pollution in the vicinity of schools, and create safer streets.
3. All of the many positive benefits that come from actively transporting yourself to school such as:
 - better concentration and cognitive abilities in class
 - stronger sense of community and understanding of the built environment
 - learning to safely navigate around our community
 - more exercise and increased sense of empowerment and independence
4. We believe it is the right of all children to be able to walk and bike to school safely.
5. A lack of physical activity plays a leading role in rising rates of obesity, diabetes and other health problems among children.

Thank you,