



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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District 64 and City of Park Ridge Win \$409,000 in new Safe Routes to School Grants

Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 and the City of Park Ridge have collaborated to win almost \$409,000 in new Safe Routes to School grants to improve the safety of children walking and biking to school. The projects are in the inaugural group of \$8.3 million awarded as part of a federally funded effort aimed at improving the fitness of elementary school students by encouraging walking and biking to and from school, and to improve safety where needed to do so. No local or state match is required to receive the grants.

The winning projects are focused on improvements in the Franklin School area, and include:

- \$400,000 to the City of Park Ridge for installation of sidewalks and related infrastructure along Dee Road north of Manor Lane to Farrell Avenue. The City and District 64 mutually identified this project as the highest priority in improving student safety. It is designated as an official Franklin School travel route for students, and is a high volume connector for traffic moving toward Maine East High School and the Advocate Lutheran General complex. It also serves children and residents traveling year-round to enjoy Northwest Park adjacent to Franklin School.
- \$8,900 to School District 64 for four education and enforcement projects that implement activities in the Franklin School Travel Plan and enhance safety in the community:
 - \$750 for a community-wide adult crossing guard training program;
 - \$1,425 for a parent and student safety patrol program;
 - \$2,225 for educational materials to encourage safe driving habits and raise awareness of new walking/biking options created by the new sidewalks; and,
 - \$4,500 for a mobile speed feedback trailer and signs to cut down on speeding and unsafe driving behaviors.

“We are thrilled that the proposals developed collaboratively by District 64 and the City of Park Ridge were selected in this initial group. The proposals were a reflection of the genuine and enduring commitment we share to enhancing the safety of all our students each day,” according to Superintendent Sally Pryor. “The community near Franklin School will particularly benefit from the new sidewalks for many years to come, and the entire Park Ridge community also will benefit from the activities underwritten by the other Safe Routes grants,” she added.

The Park Ridge grants were in competition against 297 other applications from communities across Illinois with more than 1,000 individual projects totaling \$77.7 million in requests. Grant applications were submitted in June 2007 based on a Franklin School Travel Plan developed in the spring.

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