

NOLENSVILLE SUCCESS STORY

August 20, 2010

In October 2007, the Town of Nolensville received a \$250,000 Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Grant to provide safer access for pedestrians and bicyclists to Nolensville Elementary School. Fast forward two years later: the new sidewalks are complete and now part of the town's mission to become a more pedestrian-friendly community.

"Providing safe pedestrian and bicycling routes for the community is important in creating interconnectivity from nearby residential development," said Mayor Beth Lothers. "We are excited and grateful to be one of the first Tennessee SRTS grant recipients to complete construction on this federally funded program".

The Town of Nolensville will be required to evaluate the ongoing results of the project and trends that develop in cooperation with the school principal. The goal is to see an increase in the number of students and parents participating in the program. When Nolensville applied for this grant two years ago, there were approximately 5% of the kids walking to school. By the end of this school year, it is anticipated that there will be an increase in this percentage due to a safer, appealing environment. "Having kids walk down a sidewalk enhances the feel of a cohesive neighborhood and community. At Nolensville Elementary, we work to get everyone involved – we try to endorse more physical activity among students, parents, faculty and the community," said Nolensville Elementary School Principal Ryan Harris.

Nearly one-third of children in Tennessee are overweight or obese. Given the concerns with childhood obesity trends, Safe Routes to School (SRTS) programs aim to enable and encourage children to walk and bicycle to school – to get healthy. Nolensville is on the move to create safer routes to school and a process that will be an ongoing cooperative effort for everyone.