

# NJDOT awards \$4.15 million in Safe Routes to School grants

## *Grants will improve pedestrian safety through engineering and education*

(Trenton) - Highlighting the importance of pedestrian safety, Commissioner Kris Kolluri today announced that the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) will award \$4.15 million in Safe Routes to School grants to 29 communities.

“The [Fiscal Year 2007 Safe Routes to School Grants](#) represent significant progress in Governor Corzine’s statewide pedestrian safety initiative,” said Commissioner Kolluri. “By addressing the needs of municipalities, NJDOT can improve road safety for all pedestrians, and especially schoolchildren.”

The initiative, created in 2006 as an effort to encourage New Jersey’s children to walk and bike to school, will provide local governments funds ranging from \$7,500 to \$337,000 for projects including the creation of safer walkways, bikeways and street crossings near schools.

The grants may be used for a variety of pedestrian safety improvements near schools. Infrastructure improvement projects to be funded through the program include the construction of sidewalks, the improvement of existing sidewalks, the installation of new crosswalks and school-zone markings and the installation of new speed-limit signs. The grants may also be used for educational and promotional pedestrian safety projects such as “Walk to School” days, public outreach and awareness programs and bike rodeos.

The goal of New Jersey’s Safe Routes to School Program is to assist communities in developing and implementing projects and interactive programs that encourage walking and bicycling to school while enhancing the safety of these trips. The program increases pedestrian safety awareness among motorists and schoolchildren. Safe Routes to School also helps the environment by easing traffic jams and curbing air pollution. In addition, Safe Routes to School can improve pediatric health by providing regular physical activity.

Governor Jon S. Corzine last year created a five-year, \$74 million initiative to improve pedestrian safety throughout New Jersey by encouraging motorists share the road with pedestrians through engineering, education and enforcement. The initiative includes \$15 million over five years for the Safe Routes to Schools program.

The NJDOT Safe Routes to School program is part of a national program conducted in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Through the 2005 passage of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), Congress designated a total of \$612 million toward developing the National Safe Routes to School Program.

### **FY 2007 South Jersey Safe Routes to School Grant Awardees**

Brigantine City, Atlantic County \$90,000  
Burlington City, Burlington County \$280,000  
Somerdale Borough, Camden County \$13,150  
Haddonfield Borough, Camden County \$200,000  
Oaklyn Borough, Camden County \$36,350  
North Wildwood City, Cape May County \$24,500  
Pittman Borough, Gloucester County \$120,000  
Hopewell Township, Mercer County \$14,000  
Brick Township, Ocean County \$190,000

### **FY 2007 South Jersey Safe Routes to School Pilot Programs**

Lumberton Township, Burlington County \$226,000