



AGENDA ITEM FORM

**TYPE OF AGENDA ITEM:**

- CONSENT AGENDA
- PRESENTATION
- ACTION ITEM
- TOWN MANAGER & STAFF COMMENTS
- PUBLIC HEARING
  - Duly Advertised

**PURPOSE OF ITEM:**

- INFORMATION ONLY
- DISCUSSION ONLY
- DISCUSSION AND/OR DECISION
  - Introduction     Resolution
  - Ordinance       Grant/MOU
  - By Motion         Bylaws
  - Certificate

**PRESENTER:** Richard West

**PRESENTER TITLE:** Director of Public Works

**AGENDA ITEM:** Safe Routes to School

**BACKGROUND / SUMMARY:**

Safe Routes to School is part of the federally funded Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), which might be used to support pedestrian and bicycle connectivity in the Town. Since it is a federal program, funding entails strict adherence to federal laws, regulations and guidelines, and extensive reporting requirements. TAP is administered in the Commonwealth by VDOT's Local Assistance Division; VDOT requires that applications and program development follow the Locally Administered Projects Manual.

The link for the TAP is <http://www.virginiadot.org/business/prehancegrants.asp>  
The link to VDOT's Safe Routes to Schools site is  
[http://www.virginiadot.org/programs/ted\\_Rt2\\_school\\_pro.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/programs/ted_Rt2_school_pro.asp)

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Memorandum to Mayor and Council dated 11 September 2013.

**REQUESTED ACTION:**  NO ACTION REQUESTED

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

Name: Richard West

Phone#: 703 221-3400

E-mail: rwest@dumfriesva.gov

**FOR USE DURING MEETING**

**VOTE:**

PASSED

NOT PASSED

Y	N		Y	N		Y	N	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brewer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Foreman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Forrester
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reynolds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Toney	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Washington
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wood						



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## M E M O R A N D U M

Date: 11 September 2013  
To: Mayor and Town Council  
C: Dan Taber, Town Manager  
From: Richard West, Director of Public Works  
Re: Safe Routes to School

### **BACKGROUND**

The Dumfries Town Council 2020 Vision calls for a “pedestrian friendly, accessible . . . community that provides a safe . . . environment . . .”

The 2012 Comprehensive Plan, Action Strategy T-ATF-2.4 is to “A Safe Routes To Schools (SR2S) [sic] Program to support Prince William County schools within Dumfries in order to provide safe pedestrian facilities for elementary and school students.”

As of 2010, the Town population for those aged zero to 19 was 1,671, approximately 34 per cent of the Town population.

According to Melvina Michie, Principal of Dumfries Elementary School, currently less than ten students walk to school. A Cameron Street crosswalk with illuminated signs would improve pedestrian safety in front of the school.

Although not located within the Town of Dumfries, Graham Park Middle School is attended by Dumfries residents. As of 11 September the school was gathering data on students who walk to school. This information will be forwarded when available.

The Town does have a Multi-Modal program to provide pedestrian and bicycle facilities. The primary obstacles to connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists are Quantico Creek and US Route 1.

### **SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS) PROGRAM**

The Safe Routes to School Program is a federally-funded program created under Section 1404 of the 2005 Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). In July 2013, MAP-21 – the new federal transportation bill -- became law, folding SRTS into a new Transportation Alternatives

program. SRTS projects are now eligible to compete for funding alongside other programs, including the Transportation Enhancements program and Recreational Trails program. VDOT's Local Assistance Division is managing the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP).

The SRTS Program exists not only to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety on routes to school, but to encourage increased use of bicycle or pedestrian travel to go to and from school. The program is available for students in grades K through 8.

Because SRTS is a federally funded program, with many oversight requirements and diverse laws and regulations to comply with, VDOT recommends that SRTS projects, or other projects which fall under the TAP, be budgeted at or above \$100,000. On the other hand, competition for project funding, and the allocation process for available funds, puts a practical cap of \$150,000 on project funding requests. Any funding under TAP requires a 20 percent local match.

As of this date, the Town has not started to develop a Safe Routes to School program.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. A Safe Routes to School program should be considered within the context of the Town's multi-modal program, but needs to be balanced against the number of existing and potential student pedestrians or cyclists, and the strenuous requirements of a federally funded program. During the next Capital Improvement Plan and Budget cycle, it is recommended that development of an SRTS program be investigated.
2. A crosswalk could be placed at both Cameron Street and Graham Park Road, with pavement marking and solar powered, blinking school crossing signs, for approximately \$15,000 each. This would address two immediate concerns on the routes to Dumfries Elementary School and Graham Park Middle School. It is recommended that this unbudgeted item be considered at either the mid-year budget adjustment or in the next budget cycle.