



NEW JERSEY
Safe Routes to School



www.saferoutesnj.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Margate Aims to Make Walking/Biking to School Safer

Margate, NJ - December 17, 2019 - Margate recently received a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grant that will allow initiatives by parents, schools, community leaders and local government to improve the health and well being of children by enabling and encouraging them to walk and bike to and from school.

The New Jersey Department of Transportation awarded the City the grant, which was funded through the Federal Highway Administration, to improve infrastructure on routes to William H. Ross Elementary School and Eugene A. Tighe Middle School.

The recently completed Safe Routes to School project has been in the making for nearly five years. The new traffic patterns and designs are based on the 2015 Margate School Travel Plan, the 2016 Margate-Ventnor Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, input from various consultants and public meetings, the New Jersey Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, State and Federal regulations, and engineering standards for safety and mobility.

“The improvements are intended to improve walking and bicycling routes to the William H. Ross Elementary School and Eugene A. Tighe Middle School in Margate. An adjustment period is not uncommon for this type of project, as local motorists adapt to new features designed to slow speeds and reduce traffic volumes, explained Margate’s City Engineer Edward Dennis. “The City will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of these improvements, balancing the need for an efficient transportation network with maintaining a livable and safe environment for bicyclists and pedestrians.”

In addition to the engineering aspect — making improvements to the designated safe walking routes, the SRTS Initiative focuses on encouraging kids to walk and bike to school more often; educating kids and parents on pedestrian safety; evaluating the program; and enforcing safe driver, walker and bicyclist behavior as they travel together along the road.

Every successful Safe Routes to School program also has strong parent champions: those who recognize the benefits of Safe Routes to School and are willing to take the necessary steps to create a more walkable and bikeable school community. Parents can help develop Safe Routes to School programs by

providing insight on parent concerns, facilitating peer-to-peer conversations with other parents, and assisting in identifying barriers to walking and bicycling along school routes. Parents can also organize events during Walk or Bike to School Day, teach their children safety skills, encourage healthy behaviors, or lead walking school buses – a group of students with adult leaders that walk to and from school together and “make stops” along a defined route to pick up students.

For more information about the New Jersey Safe Routes to School Initiative, visit saferoutesnj.org.

For more information about the City of Margate, visit margate-nj.com.

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