

January 25, 2023

North Carolina Department of Transportation
1 S. Wilmington St.
Raleigh, NC 27601

To Whom It May Concern:

The City of Hendersonville offers our support for Land of Sky Regional Council (LOSRC) to apply for funding to secure a Safe Routes to School Coordinator, through NCDOT's Safe Routes to School Program, for the five-county region that includes Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, and Transylvania counties. We support this grant application and the focus of improving the safety of students and their families accessing our region's schools.

The City of Hendersonville believes strongly in creating an environment that promotes safe, healthy, and equitable transportation for our student population. Tens of thousands of children access schools across Western North Carolina, many of whom face walking and biking conditions that can be less-than-ideal or dangerous. Providing greater training for kids to increase their awareness and confidence to make more trips by walking and biking has been proven to have positive impacts in academic performance as well as safety.

With a Safe Routes to School Coordinator in the region, more children will have the opportunity to have education and encouragement activities for walking and biking that is not currently available. This position will not only work with students and parents to improve individual awareness and confidence, but also work with community partners and NCDOT to improve walking and biking conditions where necessary. We believe that having a dedicated coordinator to facilitate the planning, education, and encouragement of active transportation to schools in our region will help improve the health and well-being of our students and residents and the community's quality of life.

The City of Hendersonville's City Council voted unanimously on January 25, 2023, to support LOSRC's request for funding for a Safe Routes to School Coordinator through the Safe Routes to School Program.

Sincerely,
Mayor Barbara M. Volk

CITY OF HENDERSONVILLE