



Prince William County Government
Board of County Supervisors



Safe Routes to School Antietam Elementary

Supervisor Mike May and Brian Lee



- The Old Bridge Road corridor serves as the main link between the eastern and western portions of the Occoquan District
 - As an older community, many of the secondary roads do not have sidewalks
- Retrofitting this community with sidewalks has been a priority for our office in order to make walking and biking in the community safer
 - Retrofitting is more expensive than simply adding sidewalks to new communities because of right of way requirements, utilities, and a general lack of space





- Up until now, the Antietam Road sidewalk has been cost prohibitive for the county to undertake
 - ◆ It is about .37 miles with an estimated cost of \$945,000
 - ◆ The route is used by elementary, middle, and high school students to get to and from school





- The Safe Routes to School Program was first brought to our attention by the Prince William County Trails and Blueways Council, an advisory council established by the Board of Supervisors to provide services for the development of trails and blueways
- After receiving their initial information, I tasked Brian with researching the project and getting in touch with Christine Green with the Greater Washington Regional SRTS





- After a few missteps with some of the schools, we worked with county transportation to identify a viable infrastructure project to pursue
- Working with the planners and engineers, Antietam Elementary appeared to be the perfect fit:
 - Strong tradition of educational focus on healthy living
 - PWCS has a bike safety program in place
 - Identified need for a sidewalk infrastructure
- With the school identified, our office worked to bring in all community partners, including:
 - ◆ Occoquan District School Board Member(s)- Encouragement
 - ◆ Principal- Encouragement
 - ◆ Antietam PTA- Encouragement/Education
 - ◆ Prince William County Schools Health Supervisor- Education/Evaluation
 - ◆ Trails and Blueways Council- Education
 - ◆ County Transportation- Engineering
 - ◆ Department of Fire Rescue-Education
 - ◆ Police Department- Enforcement
 - Crossing Guard Supervisor- Enforcement





- Although the process was long and sometimes difficult, all of the stakeholders worked with our office to complete the School Travel Plan and application that made our case for funding
 - ◆ Our plan was to match the \$500,000 SRTS grant with \$450,000 from the Occoquan Supervisor's Transportation Improvement Program (TRIP) funds





- Although we did not receive the full funding we requested, we still plan to finance the project in its entirety, with the planning and preparation phases expected to begin later this fall
- From the beginning, we stressed that this was going to be a pilot program whose successes can be replicated elsewhere as we learn from our mistakes



Moving Forward



- Since beginning this project, we have continued to work with our community partners:
 - ◆ Rockledge Elementary received a mini-grant for Bike to School Day
 - ◆ Increased the number of bike racks at Antietam and Rockledge Elementary
 - ◆ New Pedestrian Crossing signs at Springwoods Elementary
 - ◆ PWCS recently hired a full-time Safe Routes to School Coordinator to further our successes

