

SECTION 1 - CONTACT INFORMATION

Please complete the information below. The person identified as the Project Contact Person will be the primary point of contact for Georgia DOT staff.

Organization: (Please select one) City Government

Project Title:		Dearing Elementary School and Town of Dearing SRTS Plan					
Agency Name:		Town of Dearing					
Project Contact Person:		Sean Kelley					
Position/Title:		Mayor					
Mailing Address:		P.O. Box 520					
City:	Dearing	State:	GA	Zip Code:	30808	County:	McDuffie
Daytime Phone:	706-556-0384	Email Address:			FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY		
Fax Phone:	706-556-0384	townofdearing@bellsouth.net			Ranking:		Date Submitted:

School 1 Name:		Dearing Elementary School		School 2 Name:			
Mailing Address:		500 North Main Street		Mailing Address:			
City:	Dearing	School District:		City:		School District:	
County:	McDuffie	McDuffie County		County:			

School 3 Name:				School 4 Name:			
Mailing Address:				Mailing Address:			
City:		School District:		City:		School District:	
County:				County:			

School 5 Name:				School 6 Name:			
Mailing Address:				Mailing Address:			
City:		School District:		City:		School District:	
County:				County:			

School 7 Name:				School 8 Name:			
Mailing Address:				Mailing Address:			
City:		School District:		City:		School District:	
County:				County:			

School 9 Name:				School 10 Name:			
Mailing Address:				Mailing Address:			
City:		School District:		City:		School District:	
County:				County:			

*Do you have more than ten (10) schools for proposed infrastructure project? No *If yes, please attach additional sheets.*

What is the total number of project applications being submitted by your agency/organization. A maximum of 10 applications per city, county, or school district is allowed.	1
If more than ONE application is being submitted, what is the priority of this application?	

Project Cost Estimate: \$223,020.00

By signing, applicant attests to being authorized to sign for _____ (Name of Agency) and that all information contained herein is true and correct to the best of his/her knowledge.

Signature of Project Contact Person

Date

C. How many students enrolled in project school live within ½ mile, 1 mile, and 2 miles of the school:

School Information	School 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
School Enrollment	449									
½ mile	50									
1 mile	53									
2 miles	197									
Estimated percent of current walkers and bikers	0									

SECTION 3 - PROPOSED PROJECT

[Total of 25 Points]

- A. Is all property involved in your project in the public right-of-way (ROW)?
- If part of your project is on a permanent public easement, do you have documentation for such easement?
- B. Describe in detail your proposed Infrastructure project? Please attach a map or diagram of your project location(s) which includes, at a minimum, street names, school name(s) and location(s), city and county names, existing walking/biking facilities (e.g., sidewalks, crosswalks, paths, etc.), and existing traffic signals or stop signs. Also attach photographs, plans, and other materials that may help illustrate the proposed project.

The proposed project is located within the Town of Dearing, McDuffie County. The proposed project will benefit Dearing Elementary School. The Town of Dearing in the McDuffie County School District will administer the Dearing Elementary School SRTS Improvements project. The GDOT engineer will conduct all preliminary engineering and let projects to construction. GDOT will coordinate with the Town of Dearing to ensure the project is designed and built according to the initial approved concept. The Town of Dearing owns all project ROW on the northbound side of North Main Street. The Town of Dearing can provide documentation as needed. Dearing Elementary School's Safe Routes to School Improvements project will involve installing new 5'-wide multi-use trail, two speed tables, four painted crosswalks, flashing school zone lights, and bike facilities (see Appendix A - Map 2: Engineering Strategies).

Multi-Use Trails
 The installation of a 6' asphalt multi-use trail will begin at the intersection of Old Augusta Road and North Main Street and continue to the southern entrance of the school campus gates. This trail will service pedestrians coming from homes on Old Augusta Road, Church Street, Larkin Road, Hilton Drive, Anne Drive, and Jerry Drive. The design has the potential to provide access and improve pedestrian safety for all non-motorized travelers. The trail accommodates pedestrians and bicyclists while providing connectivity and a transportation alternative to ease congestion at and around the school site.

Traffic Calming
 The installation of two raised speed tables in front of the school will serve as traffic calming devices for the travelers on North Main Street. The speed limit in the area is 35 mph. There are reports of traffic going 50 mph and even 60 mph on this road. The speed tables will be a gradual rise and fall in the pavement—typically to a maximum height of three inches over a distance of 22 feet in the direction of travel. The central 10-foot section of the table is flat. The speed tables are used for the purpose of speed reduction.

Signage
 The installation of pole mounted flashing school zone beacons to indicate 35 mph and enhancing pavement markings will serve as a visual aid in calming traffic before arriving at the school. It would also verify where the school zone begins and ends. One pole mounting will be placed in the ROW of the northbound lane and the other in the ROW of the southbound lane. Due to the Town of Dearing and its residents concern about pedestrian safety for the students of Dearing Elementary School, this will be a great solution to reducing vehicle speeds on North Main Street.

Crosswalks
 The installation of painted crosswalks at the intersection of Old Augusta Road and North Main Street will service pedestrians coming from homes on either side of Main Street. These pedestrian crossings would be helpful in conditions that would be otherwise too unsafe to cross due to vehicle speeds. The wide white-painted stripes command respect for pedestrians and clearly communicate to cars their boundaries which is a great solution in this scenario.

Bike Facilities

The installation of bike racks on the campus of Dearing Elementary School will service those students who have bicycles at home and wish to ride them to school. The bike racks would increase the mode of transportation for the students and promote active transportation, rather than passive. Children gain confidence when they don't have to rely on their parents or a bus to get them to and from school. On a bike, the trip from home to school becomes a full sensory experience. For example, children can talk and wave to their neighbors, feel and smell the changes in the seasons, and see their neighborhood in a whole different light. Studies show that regular physical activity results in more alert individuals and even promotes brain activity. More kids on bikes means fewer cars on the road, and fewer cars idling in front of the school in the mornings and afternoons.

The SRTS program was established to: (1) enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school safely; (2) make bicycling and walking to school a safe and more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age; and (3) facilitate the planning, development and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of primary and middle schools, grades K-8.

- C. How will your proposed project(s) address the concerns that were identified in Section 2, improve bike/ped safety, increase the number of students walking to school, and improve the environment within the school vicinity?

In order to implement strategies recommended in the 2009 adopted "Dearing Elementary School's Safe Routes To School Plan" the proposed infrastructure improvements will address safety issues, pedestrian crossing, traffic calming measures, and the addition of a multi-use trail on routes leading to the school. These improvements will encourage more students to walk or bike to school and provide an attractive and safe environment, thereby improving the health of these young students. The habit of walking to school at an early age will provide life long memories and a prescription for good health to prevent obesity and diabetes.

The proposed project is the minimum required to create a safe walking environment. The visible crosswalks, multi-use trail, traffic calming devices on N. Main Street will provide a safe atmosphere for students to walk or bike. At the present time, there are no sidewalks or trails leading from the nearest neighborhood in Dearing to Dearing Elementary School, providing an unsafe walking or biking experience. The installation of a 5' foot multi-use trail will increase pedestrian safety while traveling without using a car. Using this trail will also reduce pollution and lessen congestion during school hours. New multi-use trail installation of a consistent five foot width will be wide enough for students walking and riding bikes to travel to school safely. New multi-use trails will be level and design will comply with all federal DOT standards. Improved handicap accessibility for such elements as corner ingress/egress will allow the disabled ease in route to school.

As a measure of traffic calming, two speed tables will be constructed and placed at appropriate points along North Main Street which will in terms deterred vehicles from speeding in front of the school. At the intersection of Old Augusta Road and North Main Street, there will be crosswalks put in place for children crossing the street to enter and leave school each day. Because of the infrastructure, pedestrian activity along this route will increase and parents will trust their young children to walk or bike to school. The implementation of this infrastructure coincides with the goals and objectives stated in Dearing Elementary School's SRTS Plan, which states to increase pedestrian activity.

Our SRTS committee is confident - based on parent feedback - that with these infrastructure improvements we will have an additional 100 students walking or riding bikes to school.

SECTION 4 - PROGRAM INFORMATION

[Total of 30 Points]

Explain how your school(s) is currently addressing Education, Encouragement, Enforcement, Engineering, and Evaluation. When did the school(s) begin its SRTS activities and/or plan? How many children are involved in these activities? Is there a full- or part-time coordinator responsible for managing these activities? If available, provide a link to your SRTS Plan.

Dearing Elementary School (DES) discovered the Safe Routes to School program (SRTS) in late spring 2008 while researching ways to improve traffic and pedestrian safety near the school. The Mayor of Dearing approached the CSRA Regional Commission in 2009 with concerns for safety of students at Dearing Elementary. His concerns were supported by the administration of Dearing Elementary. The school's campus is centered on North Main Street. There are no sidewalks leading to the school from the neighboring communities. Additionally, there are no crosswalks across North Main Street which creates a dangerous situation every time students access the school's campus. Because of these factors, the CSRA RC staff recommended that the first step was to create a Safe Routes to School Plan to follow in the coming years (see Appendix B - Open House Flyer). Dearing Elementary School formed a school SRTS Committee, led by a volunteer chair, to evaluate the walking environment and develop a plan for safe walking and bicycling.

The SRTS Coordinator responsible for managing the Dearing Elementary School Safe Routes to School Plan is Ms. Lynda Anguilla, one of Dearing Elementary School's First Grade teachers. Ms. Anguilla's resume consist of a Bachelor's degree from Augusta State University and a Master's degree from Central Michigan University. She was also selected by her peers at South Columbia Elementary School as "Teacher of the Year" in 2002. Ms. Anguilla's track record includes a nomination in "Who's Who Among American Teachers" and teaching experience that covers 14 years and ranges in grades 1st – 3rd. She has spent the past 4 years teaching at Dearing Elementary School in Dearing, GA that is in their eighth year of achieving AYP status. In 2009, Ms. Anguilla took on the role as the school's SRTS Coordinator.

Dearing Elementary School developed a Safe Routes to School plan in 2009. The Dearing SRTS Plan can be found at this location:

http://www.csrardc.org/docs/planning/Reviews/Dearing_SRTS_Plan_Final_Copy_04_17_09.pdf

Education—A big portion of our work with Safe Routes to School is Education, since infrastructure is none existent. In Spring 2010, Dearing Elementary School began Walk Up an Appetite. This was a walk at school event that was held in conjunction with an annual Spaghetti Supper. The school's efforts were supported by the staff, city officials, McDuffie County Sheriff's Department, the PTO, and numerous parent volunteers. There were around 70 participating students, 20 parent volunteers, along with the CSRA Regional Commission and Georgia SRTS Resource Center Regional Coordinator. Students who walked got to autograph posters hanging on the gym wall and received reflective tags for their back-packs and pencils. Because of the overwhelming support of the event, the school's faculty is planning to hold the second annual Walk Up an Appetite in March 2011 (see Appendix C - Work Up an Appetite Flyer). Participation from students is expected to double. Supporters of the event plan on making it an annual spring event.

With the launch of GDOT's SRTS Resource Center, those resources are helping us to enhance the education of our parents and students. Dearing Elementary School has researched other complimentary programs and resources to help educate parents and students. Dearing is in the process of registering for "CLEAN AIR SCHOOL" with the Clean Air Campaign, and will use its "WALK THERE FOR CLEAN AIR" program to educate parents and students about the benefits of walking to school and pedestrian safety.

Accomplishments for Dearing Elementary School include the entire school system of McDuffie County receiving a safety award from Georgia Emergency Management Agency in January 2010 and Dearing Elementary School graduating 73 graduates in the CHAMPS Program. Choosing Healthy Activities and Methods Promoting Safety (CHAMPS) is a program formerly known as DARE that teaches many issues such as alcohol, ATV and boating safety, bullying, street drugs, gangs, home alone and child abduction safety, internet safety, peer pressure, stress and tobacco in February 2009 (see Appendix D - McDuffie Mirror News Article 02/19/2009).

Encouragement—Dearing Elementary School began participation in October 2009 and October 2010 in the International Kids Walk and Bike to School Day with up 90 participants and 320 participants in 2010. Dearing also participated in Georgia's First Annual Walk to/at School Day event held in March 2010 (see Appendix D - McDuffie Mirror News Article 03/04/2010). Dearing Elementary School is in the process of forming a "Walking School Bus" committee, where various community volunteers picked up school children at designated points to walk the rest of the way to school rather than parents bringing their children by car or bus all the way into school. Dearing Elementary School plans to continue the Walk AT School event to encourage children walking to school (see Appendix E – DES Walk AT School Day Pictures).

Enforcement—The advisory committee for Dearing's SRTS program has identified two facets to enforcement: police presence and crossing guard presence. Teachers and PTO volunteers will continue to assist as bus and car patrollers until additional funds can be budgeted for crossing guards.

Engineering—The SRTS infrastructure grant will provide badly needed funds to implement the 2009 Dearing Elementary School's SRTS Plan objectives in the Work Program. The engineering goal is to "Create operational and physical improvements to the infrastructure surrounding Dearing Elementary School that promotes increased walking and bicycling by children between their homes and school by reducing speeds and other potential conflicts with motor vehicle traffic. The new multi-use trails, speed tables, crosswalks, and flashing school zone lights will achieve much of the engineering goal as defined in Objectives.

Evaluation—The SRTS advisory committee will continue to meet annually, at a minimum, to make sure that the underlying problems of safety for children walking and cycling, vehicle traffic calming and circulation, and health issues are addressed according to the Dearing Elementary School SRTS Plan strategies and Work Program. The committee will set reasonable expectations about what the program can do, identify changes that will improve the program, and determine if the program is having the desired results.

SECTION 5 - PROJECT COST ESTIMATE

[Total of 10 Points]

Provide the Project Cost Estimate. Include material and construction costs. All preliminary engineering will be conducted by GDOT. Note: SRTS is a 100% federal-aid program. Local funds and in-kind donations are not required or accepted. **Use Project Cost Estimate tab to complete Section 5. Contact your local government for assistance.**

See Project Cost Estimate Attachment

SECTION 6 - SIGNATURES

The undersigned consent that the following school(s) are active partners with the SRTS Resource Center, engage in Non-Infrastructure SRTS activities, and participate in GDOT's evaluation process. The undersigned understand that the proposed infrastructure project, if granted, will be designed and implemented by Georgia Department of Transportation. Upon completion of construction, the undersigned agree to provide regular maintenance on the new infrastructure. The undersigned affirm that all statements in this application are true and complete to the best of the applicant's knowledge. Please attach additional signature pages if necessary for multiple schools.

(Signature required from local government official authorized to sign maintenance agreements, or Designee.)

	Sean Kelley, Mayor
Signature of City/County Engineer, Mayor, County Commissioner, City Manager, etc.	Print Name of City/County Engineer, Mayor, County Commissioner, City Manager, etc.
Town of Dearing	706-556-0384
Name of Agency	Telephone Number Date

	Jim LeBraun
Signature of School District Superintendent	Print Name of School District Superintendent
McDuffie County Schools, GA	706-986-4000
Name of School District	Telephone Number Date

	Nancy Lovelady
School 1: Signature of Principal	School 1: Print Name of Principal
Dearing Elementary School	706-986-4900
Name of School	Telephone Number Date

School 2: Signature of Principal	School 2: Print Name of Principal
Name of School	Telephone Number Date

School 3: Signature of Principal	School 3: Print Name of Principal
Name of School	Telephone Number Date

School 4: Signature of Principal	School 4: Print Name of Principal
Name of School	Telephone Number Date

School 5: Signature of Principal _____		School 5: Print Name of Principal _____
_____ Name of School	_____ Telephone Number	_____ Date

School 6: Signature of Principal _____		School 6: Print Name of Principal _____
_____ Name of School	_____ Telephone Number	_____ Date

School 7: Signature of Principal _____		School 7: Print Name of Principal _____
_____ Name of School	_____ Telephone Number	_____ Date

School 8: Signature of Principal _____		School 8: Print Name of Principal _____
_____ Name of School	_____ Telephone Number	_____ Date

School 9: Signature of Principal _____		School 9: Print Name of Principal _____
_____ Name of School	_____ Telephone Number	_____ Date

School 10: Signature of Principal _____		School 10: Print Name of Principal _____
_____ Name of School	_____ Telephone Number	_____ Date

Thank you for your interest in Georgia's Safe Routes to School Program!