

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) **County Government**

Project Title:		Hancock County Schools SRTS Improvement Project					
Agency Name:		Hancock County Commissioners					
Project Contact Person:		Rev. Samuel Duggan					
Position/Title:		County Commissioners					
Mailing Address:		12630 Broad Street					
City:	Sparta	State:	GA	Zip Code:	31087	County:	Hancock
Daytime Phone:	706-444-5746	Email Address:			FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY		
Fax Phone:	706-444-6221	Ranking:			Date Submitted:		

School 1 Name:		M. E. Lewis, Sr. Elementary School		School 2 Name:		Hancock Central Middle School	
Mailing Address:		11145 Hwy. 15 North		Mailing Address:		11311 Hwy. 15 North	
City:	Sparta	School District:	Hancock County	City:	Sparta	School District:	Hancock County
County:	Hancock	County:	Hancock	County:	Hancock	County:	Hancock

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

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

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

School 9 Name:				School 10 Name:			
Mailing Address:				Mailing Address:			
City:		School District:		City:		School District:	
County:		County:		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: \$456,978.92

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	571	271								
½ mile	21	7								
1 mile	68	28								
2 miles	237	89								
Estimated percent of current walkers and bikers	0	0								

SECTION 3 - PROPOSED PROJECT

[Total of 25 Points]

- A. Is all property involved in your project in the public right-of-way (ROW)? Yes No
 If part of your project is on a permanent public easement, do you have documentation for such easement? Yes No
- 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 Hancock County. The proposed project will benefit M E Lewis Elementary School and Hancock Central Middle School. The Hancock County Commissioners and the Hancock County School District will administer the School's SRTS Improvements project. The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) engineer will conduct all preliminary engineering and let projects to construction. GDOT will coordinate with Hancock County Commissioners and the Hancock County School District to ensure the project is designed and built according to the initial approved concept. Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) owns all ROW within 100 ft of HWY 15. M E Lewis Elementary School and Hancock Central Middle School's Safe Routes to School Improvements project will involve installing new sidewalks, repairing old sidewalks, six painted crosswalks, as well as painted school zone markings.

Sidewalks

This portion of the project is to establish a sidewalk connection from the Courthouse Square area of the City of Sparta along HWY 15 to the bridge (see Appendix A: Hancock County Georgia Safe Routes to School Proposal Map). There is an existing sidewalk from the courthouse square to the bridge crossing the railroad tracks. Renovating this portion of the sidewalk, which is approximately 1,800 ft will connect children to other areas of the city such as the library. Renovation will consist of widening the sidewalk to a minimum of 5 ft. width and removing portions of the existing sidewalk that are misaligned, for example the misalignment sections where trees have damaged the concrete. Renovation will also include removal of any vegetation including trees along this route that will hamper the ability to use the sidewalk. Renovating this area will include adding handicapped ramps where they are needed. Driveway aprons will also be added or modified to meet GDOT standards.

The bridge crossing the railroad already has a sidewalk on it. The plan is to use this section of sidewalk. However, there is a portion of the roadway on the south side of the bridge from the end of the existing sidewalk to the bridge that does not have a sidewalk. This portion of the roadway falls off as the roadway approaches the bridge. On the north side of the bridge the embankment also falls off as the roadway leaves the bridge. The plan in these two areas is to install a retaining wall and fill material that will support the sidewalk. The retaining wall and fill material will be for both of these approaches. The sidewalk will be a minimum of 5 ft. wide and it is anticipated that a 30-in. curb and gutter will be needed in this area along the roadway up to the bridge and from the bridge in the same vicinity as the wall. On top of the wall for the entire length will be an aluminum handrail. This new infrastructure will support pedestrians coming from homes on Fairmont Road and Powelton Avenue. The design has the potential to provide access and improve pedestrian safety for pedestrians and bicyclists while providing connectivity.

The next part of the sidewalk construction includes the construction of approximately 7,400 LF of sidewalk, located within the right-of-way of HWY 15 from the bridge to the entrance of the schools. The plan is to traverse the sidewalk to the entrance of the high school. The sidewalk will be in the right-of-way and will generally be on the back slope. On the school property, the sidewalk will meander through the trees and be off of the right-of-way. At Sandersville Technical College, the sidewalk will also be off of the right-of-way. If necessary, the sidewalks can be on the Sandersville Technical College property.

Signage

The enhancement of pavement markings will serve as a visual aid in calming traffic before arriving at the school. It would also verify where the school zone begin and end. One beacon will face northbound traffic and the other facing southbound traffic. Due to Hancock County School officials and residents concerns about pedestrian safety for the students of M E Lewis Elementary School and Hancock Central Middle School, this will be a good solution to reducing vehicle speeds on Hwy 15.

Crosswalks

The installation of two painted crosswalks at the intersection of Fairmont Drive and Hwy 15 N will service pedestrians coming from homes on either side of Hwy 15 . 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.

There are at least two large subdivisions on the west side of the highway (Hancock Acres and Hancock Heights). The plan is to install pedestrian crosswalks to both of these subdivisions to allow pedestrians to cross the highway. These crosswalks will require pedestrian pedestals as well as caution signs on their approaches on both sides of the highway.

At the intersection of HWY 15 and HWY 16 the plan is to install a crosswalk with pedestrian pedestals on each side.

Bicycle Parking Facilities

Providing a secure and convenient location for bicycle parking is one way to help encourage our children to bicycle to school. A good bicycle rack should keep the bicycle upright by supporting the frame without bending the wheel and should allow the frame and at least one wheel to be locked to it. Bicycle racks should be placed in a location that will minimize vandalism and maximize use while avoiding conflicts with driveways, buses and large numbers of walkers. Racks should be located in a visible location, convenient to the school entrance. Ideally, bicycle racks should be protected from the weather. We will make sure there is a sufficient amount of parking available, so that bicycles are not crowded.

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?

The proposed project is the minimum required to create a safe walking environment. The visible crosswalks, sidewalks, pavement school zone markings on HWY 15 will provide a safe atmosphere for students to walk or bike. At the present time, there are no sidewalks or trails leading from the Fairmont Road homes to M. E. Lewis Elementary School and Hancock Central Middle School, providing an unsafe walking or biking experience. The installation of a 5' foot sidewalk will increase pedestrian safety while traveling without using a car. Using this trail will also reduce pollution and lessen congestion during school hours. New sidewalk installation of a consistent five foot width will be wide enough for students walking and riding bikes to travel to school safely. New sidewalks 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, crosswalks and pavement markings entitled "slow school zone" will be placed at appropriate point along HWY 15 which in terms deters vehicles from speeding in front of the school. At the intersection of Fairmont Road and HWY 15, 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 Hancock County has for their healthy living program.

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.

Hancock County Board of Education discovered the Safe Routes to School program (SRTS) in late fall 2010 while researching ways to improve traffic and pedestrian safety near the school. The Transportation Director of Hancock County Schools approached the CSRA Regional Commission with concerns for safety of students at M. E. Lewis Elementary and Hancock Central Middle Schools. His concerns were supported by the administration. The school's campus is centered on HWY 15. There are no sidewalks leading to the school from the neighboring communities. Additionally, there are no crosswalks across HWY 15 which creates a dangerous situation every time students access the school's campus. Because of these factors, the CSRA RC staff recommended forming a school SRTS Committee, led by a volunteer chair, to evaluate the walking environment and develop a plan for safer walking and bicycling.

The SRTS Coordinator responsible for managing the Hancock Schools Safe Routes to School activities is Mr. Elmer Harper, Transportation Director of Hancock County Schools. Mr. Harper's resume consist of a managing and maintaining M. E. Lewis Elementary and Hancock Central Middle School Transportation, Maintenance, Facilities, and Building Security. Hancock Central Middle School has made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for 5 years consecutively, and is recognized as a Title I Distinguished School of Excellence. M. E. Lewis Elementary has won several 1st and 2nd place awards in state social studies competition. Both schools are recipients of awards from reading club competitions as well. Mr. Harper took on the role as the school's SRTS Coordinator, where he immediately signed up both schools to partner with Georgia Safe Routes to School Resource Center at the bronze level.

Hancock County Schools do not have a Safe Routes to School Travel Plan in place but will be working to complete one in spring 2011.

Education –

In the fall of 2010, M. E. Lewis Elementary and Hancock Central Middle Schools took part in International Walk to School Day (10/06/2010) as a means to promote healthy living as well as promoting physical fitness. In addition to taking part in a symbolic half mile walk to school event, this day also featured a bike giveaway. Approximately 25 bikes were donated by individual volunteers and local churches. Thorough and well-taught safety skills included wearing proper gear, maintaining appropriate speed, being obedient to traffic rules, and keeping sharp eyesight. A school wide assembly was held on the football field where an official proclamation endorsed by city and county officials was presented by the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent of schools. (see Appendix B – Walk to School Day School Wide Assembly Pictures) Students from each grade level from the elementary and middle school provided entertainment consisting of cheers, songs, poems, raps, dances and creative movements centered around the theme of making heart healthy choices. Students also designed posters focused on this theme (see Appendix C - Art Drawings).

Students and faculty members have answered the call of leading healthier lifestyles by truly getting into the spirit of walking. Hancock Central Middle School students walk one mile on the track four days a week. M. E. Lewis Elementary students no longer use the bus to journey to the Middle School or the football field for events. Instead they walk the distance, weather permitting. The momentum continued with a Bike Rodeo that was held on 11/05/2010. Ms. Trisha Hardy and her team of cyclists interacted with students in a Get It In Gear Bike Training at M.E. Lewis Elementary where they performed two sessions of training (see Appendix D – Get It In Gear Poster Contest Flyer). The team performed their final session at Hancock Central Middle School. Volunteers and local area churches have made a commitment to continue their donations.

Lists of activities M. E. Lewis Elementary School and Hancock Central Middle School will continue to be involved in are as listed:

- 1) International Walk Day (10/07/10 - Students, Administrators, Staff, Bus Drivers walking ½ mile to school) (see Appendix E – Walk to School Day Pictures)
- 2) Bike Rodeo (11/05/10) (see Appendix F – Bicycle Rodeo Pictures)
- 3) Biking and Safety Training (11/29/10)
- 4) T- Shirts Day, SRTS joint Red Ribbon/Say No to Drugs Day celebration
- 5) 30-minutes daily class time walk (M.E. Lewis Elementary)
- 6) Competitive Poster Drawing contest
- 7) Competitive essay writing contest
- 8) Healthy living curriculum base activity
- 9) 30-minutes daily walk track field (Hancock Middle School)

The schools have been embraced and supported by the following:

- 1) Parents
- 2) Hancock County Sheriff's Department
- 3) Hancock Board of Commissioners
- 4) Hancock County Cooperative Extension Agency
- 5) Hancock County Retired Teachers Association
- 6) Community Stakeholders
- 7) Administrators, Faculty, and Staff of Hancock County Schools
- 8) Local Businesses
- 9) Local Ministerial Alliance
- 10) Mayor of Sparta, GA
- 11) City of Sparta Police Department

Encouragement –

M. E. Lewis Elementary and Hancock Central Middle School's International Walk to School Day and Bike Rodeo October 2010 eagerly and enthusiastically launched a highly successful and well entertained event. Educators incorporated lessons on physical fitness, health and wellness into their daily lessons promoting healthy lifestyles. Each Monday-Thursday parents, stakeholders, administrators, students, faculty and staff continue to walk to further encourage healthy living.

Enforcement –

The advisory committee for Hancock County Schools SRTS program has identified two facets to enforcement: police presence and crossing guard presence. Police presence comes from the City of Sparta police as well as Hancock County Sheriff's Department. Teachers and PTO volunteers will continue to assist as bus and car patrollers until additional funds can be budgeted for crossing guards. With the presence of the police, cars are visually aware of the school zone and its speed limits.

Engineering –

The SRTS infrastructure grant will provide needed funds to implement the goal of healthier living. With Safe Routes to School main goal "to enable and encourage children to safely walk and bicycle to school," Hancock County wish to promote increased walking and bicycling by children between their homes and school by reducing speeds and other potential conflicts with motor vehicle traffic. The purposed sidewalks, crosswalks, and bicycle racks will achieve much of the goal of healthier living (see Appendix A – Hancock County Georgia Safe Routes to School Proposal Map).

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 Hancock County Board of Education SRTS curriculum and strategies. The committee will set reasonable expectations about what the program can do, work to reduce traffic congestion and improve health and the environment, which will in terms make the community more livable for everyone in Hancock County.

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.**



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 infrastrucutre. 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.)**

_____ Signature of City/County Engineer, Mayor, County Commissioner, City Manager, etc. _____ Hancock County Name of Agency	_____ Rev. Samuel Duggan, County Commissioner _____ Print Name of City/County Engineer, Mayor, County Commissioner, City Manager, etc. _____ 706-444-5746 Telephone Number
_____ Date	_____ Date

_____ Signature of School District Superintendent _____ Hancock County Schools, GA Name of School District	_____ Awanna Leslie _____ Print Name of School District Superintendent _____ 706-444-5775 Telephone Number
_____ Date	_____ Date

_____ School 1: Signature of Principal _____ M. E. Lewis, Sr. Elementary School Name of School	_____ Stephanie Birdsong _____ School 1: Print Name of Principal _____ 706-444-7028 Telephone Number
_____ Date	_____ Date

_____ School 2: Signature of Principal _____ Hancock Central Middle School Name of School	_____ Willie Gibson _____ School 2: Print Name of Principal _____ 706-444-6652 Telephone Number
_____ Date	_____ Date

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

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