

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) School District

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|---|----|-----------|------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Project Title: | | J.L. Newbern Middle School Safe Routes Proposal | | | | | |
| Agency Name: | | Valdosta City School District | | | | | |
| Project Contact Person: | | Kathy Brunot | | | | | |
| Position/Title: | | Grants Administrator - City of Valdosta | | | | | |
| Mailing Address: | | P.O. Box 1125 | | | | | |
| City: | Valdosta | State: | GA | Zip Code: | 31603-1125 | County: | Lowndes |
| Daytime Phone: | 229-259-3576 | Email Address: | | | | FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY | |
| Fax Phone: | 229-259-3539 | kbrunot@valdostacity.com | | | | Ranking: | Date Submitted: |

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------|----------|-----------------------------|---------------|------------------|--|------------------|--|
| School 1 Name: | | J. L. Newbern Middle School | | School 2 Name: | | | |
| Mailing Address: | | 2015 East Park Avenue | | Mailing Address: | | | |
| City: | Valdosta | School District: | Valdosta City | City: | | School District: | |
| County: | Lowndes | | | 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: | |
| County: | | County: | |

| | | | |
|------------------|--|------------------|--|
| School 9 Name: | | School 10 Name: | |
| Mailing Address: | | Mailing Address: | |
| 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(one) |
| If more than ONE application is being submitted, what is the priority of this application? | |

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Project Cost Estimate: | \$279,769.60 |
|-------------------------------|--------------|

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

Kathy Brunot, Grants Administrator
Signature of Project Contact Person

11/22/10
Date

SECTION 2 - PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

[Total of 35 Points]

- A. Describe the current condition for biking and walking in your school area. Describe safety, traffic, health or environmental issues that you are trying to solve through SRTS. Please attach maps, photos, traffic counts, crash data surveys, safety audits, or any other information that help illustrate the need for this project.

Schools are meant to provide an environment for all students to have the opportunity to grow, learn, and flourish to their full potential. If safe routes to schools are provided, many students who are driven to school would be more inclined to walk or ride a bicycle. This will improve the health of many students which will help improve school performance. The benefit of having safe routes to K-8 grade schools is the reduction in vehicular traffic trying to enter and leave schools. In the east central part of Valdosta, the street network is often very congested during morning drop-off and afternoon pick – up periods. It is not safe for students to walk or ride bikes to J.L. Newbern Middle (grades 6-8) School. A cooperative agreement was reached between the City of Valdosta and the City Board of Education to make improvements to Lakeland Drive between Forrest Street and Park Avenue. This street is now a one-way street in the eastbound direction. A sidewalk has been constructed along the north side of this street. While there is sidewalk in the west side of Forrest Street, it was constructed close to the edge of the pavement and it represents a potential threat. City officials are working with the Georgia DOT to widen the section of Forrest Street from Park Avenue north to Bemiss Road (SR 1250). The city is working to make future improvements to the section of Forrest Street south of Park Avenue to Hill Avenue (US 84/SR 38). This project will include bike lanes and sidewalks. Please refer to the attached map for orientation.

The average daily traffic count on Forrest Street north of Park Avenue is 2622. South of Park it is 3518. On Park Avenue, east of Forrest, the count is 2516. West of Forrest the daily count is 3483. Further east on Park Avenue near J.L. Newbern Middle School, the daily count is 1257. Please note Forrest Street and Park Avenue are classified as urban minor arterials on the official functional Classification Map for the city of Valdosta. The speed limit on Forrest Street is 35 mph. The speed limit on the section of Park, east of Forrest, is 45 mph while the part near J.L. Newbern Middle School is 55 mph. Limited shoulders exist, thus placing anyone who walks along this road to truly be in an unsafe environment. Park Avenue is a major east/west corridor and Forrest Street is a major north/south corridor through the city of Valdosta.

The City of Valdosta has completed construction of a sidewalk on the north side of Park Avenue from Lee Street to Forrest Street. This important addition will drastically improve pedestrian access on this five lane street. Park Avenue to the east of Forrest is a two lane, former state highway. Forrest Street is a two lane street between Bemiss Road and Hill Avenue. Turn lanes exist at the intersection of Forrest and Park. However, the existing signal at this intersection does not have pedestrian signal features.

A very large subdivision has been constructed off Pineview Drive between Forrest Street and Park Avenue in recent years. Hundreds of new homes have been constructed. There are many children who could easily walk to school if a safe route was created on this street which has an average daily traffic count of 3773 vehicles.

A major threat to children who want to walk or ride a bike to school is the recent breakup and sale of a 2,200 acre tract of property on the east side of Valdosta. New development will soon occur and the traffic count on Park Avenue will drastically increase. It is estimated the count could double in the next five years. While Park Avenue, from Forrest to Perimeter Road, has been identified to be widened on the recently approved City Transportation Master Plan, it will not be constructed until around the year 2015 or later due to funding restrictions. Coupled with the growth in student population, that is expected, it is clear that improvements are needed now to allow school age children to have safe access to the school.



B. Please provide the following information for each school in this application?

| School Information | School 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|--------------------|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| % Free/Redcd Lunch | 87% | | | | | | | | | |
| % Asian | .18% | | | | | | | | | |
| % African-American | 89.37% | | | | | | | | | |
| % Caucasian | 3.13% | | | | | | | | | |
| % Hispanic | 5.8% | | | | | | | | | |
| % Native American | | | | | | | | | | |
| % Other | 1.52% | | | | | | | | | |

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 | 524 | | | | | | | | | |
| ½ mile | 35 | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 mile | 152 | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 miles | 307 | | | | | | | | | |
| Estimated percent of current walkers and bikers | 30** | | | | | | | | | |

** Estimated percent of current walkers and bikers is less than 6% of the total school population due to the unsafe pedestrian and bicycle route currently leading to/from J.L. Newbern Middle School.

The local school board has suggested that all students be transported to the school via district school buses to ensure student safety.

SECTION 3 - PROPOSED PROJECT

[Total of 25 Points]

- A. Is all property involved in your project in the public right-of-way (ROW)? Yes
- If part of your project is on a permanent public easement, do you have documentation for such easement? Yes
- 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 backbone of the proposed infrastructure project is the construction of a 12 foot addition on the north side of Park Avenue, from Forrest Street to the J.L. Newbern Middle School driveway. This addition is to be constructed in a manner to allow the proposed project to be incorporated into the future five lane widening project with sidewalks and bike lanes. Please note the first seven feet will be striped and made available for emergency vehicle parking. Raised pavement markers are to be installed to provide further demarcation of this area, especially during evening hours. The remaining five feet of pavement will be used by pedestrians and bicyclists. Three foot high flexible delineation sticks will be installed to further delineate/separate the emergency parking area from the portion to be used by those who walk or ride bikes. Please refer to the attached drawing for orientation.

Finally, the City of Valdosta and Lowndes County are working together to construct a future walkway across property the county obtained using State of Georgia Conservation/Green Space funding approximately 8 years ago. This project will link the intersection of Park Avenue at Pineview Drive to Ponderosa Drive. A traffic signal at the intersection of Park Avenue and Pineview Drive has been installed with that project to help pedestrians cross Park Avenue.

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 infrastructure improvement project will drastically improve the environment for children to walk to and from school. The proposed project will also provide the necessary connectivity to serve citizens who would like or who need to walk or ride bicycles to reach their desired destination. With the increase in vehicular traffic due to the growth of this area of our community and the growth expected over the next 10 years, it is imperative that this project be constructed as soon as possible. Because the improvements on Park Avenue will be incorporated into the future five-lane widening project that will include bike lanes and sidewalks, the money spent on this project will not be wasted. In fact, it will prove to be a successful project because it will eliminate threats and obstacles to those who do want to walk or ride a bike to school.

The benefit of children being able to walk safely to and from school will be dramatic. More children and adults will be able to walk to and from school. The additional exercise will improve the health of our community by helping to reduce obesity levels, which plague our society. The proposed improvements will allow more students to participate in extra-curricular activities after school since they will be able to safely walk or ride home. The decrease in traffic entering the school campus will improve traffic safety and help to reduce congestion and vehicle emissions in this area of our community.

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.

The Safe Routes to School Plan for J.L. Newbern Middle School has many facets of Education, Engineering, Encouragement, Enforcement, and Evaluation qualifications that it hopes to abide by in order to make sure the school zone is safe.

The first of these goals to aspire to is Education. Since the SRTS Program goals for education should target parents, neighbors, and drivers to make them aware of bicycle and pedestrian safety issues, it also includes educating children on bicycle and pedestrian safety. So to follow these standards, the Valdosta City School District has decided to incorporate these goals into the program: to educate children and the community on bicycle and pedestrian safety issues and laws; to educate parents, faculty, and staff on safety in campus parking lots; and educating children on the importance of having an active lifestyle. The school system intends to fully utilize the forthcoming curriculum being offered by the SRTS Resource Center to aid in furthering the education process regarding physical activity and safety. The desire for such a program at J.L. Newbern Middle is evident in the actions of the school administration, community, and students. The fact the school participated in the International Safe Routes to School festivities for the first time this year, with only a ceremonial walk around their campus, shows how much this addition to their school would be valued.

In addition to Education, Encouragement is another important aspect of the SRTS Program. The encouragement factor is meant to include low-cost fun activities that generate excitement about walking and riding bicycles to school. Some planned ways to meet this goal is: participation in International Walk to School Day, the creation of walking school buses, the encouragement of programs that clean up and beautify surrounding areas; and for parents to establish walking clubs, park their cars and walk their children to school.

In addition to the previous two requirements, Enforcement is another necessity for making a safe school zone. Enforcement includes work completed by law enforcement officials, school personnel, parents, crossing guards, and neighbors to encourage proper driver behavior. Likewise, police officers can participate in a SRTS Program in more areas than just enforcement. For instance, the use of crossing guards has already been implemented in the J.L. Newbern School District, but due to the plans for more sidewalks and traffic lights, the use of the crossing guards may have to be increased.

A fourth duty is to focus on the Engineering aspect of the school zone. These characteristics focus on infrastructure improvements, traffic calming, and bicycle and pedestrian infrastructures. All of which are important to participant safety in the school zone. Finally, Evaluation of all the activities that are already in progress as well as the future projects are all important to the outcome of the project as well as the success of all of the students, faculty, staff, and parents who are involved with J.L. Newbern Middle School.

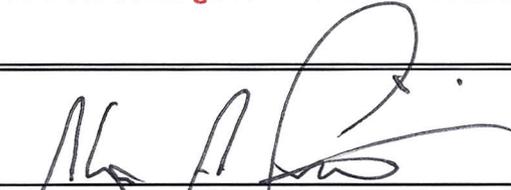
SECTION 5 - PROJECT COST ESTIMATE

[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.)**

| | |
|--|---|
|  <hr/> <p>Signature of City/County Engineer, Mayor, County Commissioner, City Manager, etc.</p> <p>City of Valdosta</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Name of Agency</p> | <p>John J. Fretti, Mayor</p> <hr/> <p>Print Name of City/County Engineer, Mayor, County Commissioner, City Manager, etc.</p> <p>(229) 259-3500</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Telephone Number</p> |
| | <p>11/21/10</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Date</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
|  <hr/> <p>Signature of School District Superintendent</p> <p>Valdosta City School District</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Name of School District</p> | <p>Dr. William O. Cason</p> <hr/> <p>Print Name of School District Superintendent</p> <p>(229) 333-8500</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Telephone Number</p> |
| | <p>11/21/10</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Date</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
|  <hr/> <p>School 1: Signature of Principal</p> <p>J.L. Newbern Middle School</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Name of School</p> | <p>Dr. Janice Richardson</p> <hr/> <p>School 1: Print Name of Principal</p> <p>(229) 333-8566</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Telephone Number</p> |
| | <p>11/21/10</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Date</p> |

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Transportation is authorized to make grants to state, regional, local, county and city governments, and school districts for the purpose of making bicycling and walking to school safe and routine through providing funds and services for infrastructure improvements, and education, encouragement and enforcement activities. Federal funds are made available to help create an environment where school children in K-8 grades can travel to school safely while walking and biking. The Valdosta City Board of Education is seeking up to \$280,000 in funding to provide sidewalks, bike lanes and bicycle facilities to Newbern Middle School with no required matching funds,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Valdosta City School Board, hereinafter referred to as the "Applicant,"

1. That William F. Love in his official capacity as Chairman is authorized to execute and file an application on behalf of the Applicant, a school district, with the Georgia Department of Transportation ,
2. That the Chairman is authorized to execute and file such application and assurances or any other document required by the Georgia Department of Transportation,
3. That the Chairman is authorized to execute any required assurances or certifications associated with this application.
4. That the Grants Administrator of the City of Valdosta working with the school board is authorized to file the application on behalf of the Valdosta City School Board,
5. That the Chairman is authorized to execute a grant contract agreement on behalf of the Applicant with the Georgia Department of Transportation, and
6. That the Valdosta City School Board while making application to or receiving grants from the Georgia Department of Transportation will comply with state and federal statutes, regulations, executive orders and administrative requirements as required by said agencies.

Approved and adopted, this 25th day of October



Chairman, Valdosta City School Board

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary, Valdosta City School Board

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-17

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Transportation is authorized to make grants to state, regional, local, county and city governments, and school districts for the purpose of making bicycling and walking to school safe and routine through providing funds and services for infrastructure improvements, and education, encouragement and enforcement activities. Federal funds are made available to help create an environment where school children in K-8 grades can travel to school safely while walking and biking. The City of Valdosta supports the Valdosta City School Board in seeking up to \$280,000 in funding to provide sidewalks, bike lanes and bicycle facilities to J. L. Newbern Middle School with no required matching funds,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Valdosta City Council, hereinafter referred to as the "Partner,"

1. That John J. Fretti in his official capacity as Mayor is authorized to execute and file a resolution of support on behalf of the Partner, a city government, with the Georgia Department of Transportation,
2. That the Mayor is authorized to execute and file such resolution or any other document required by the Georgia Department of Transportation in support of the application,
3. That the Mayor is authorized to execute any required assurances or certifications associated with this application.
4. That the Grants Administrator is authorized to prepare and file the application on behalf of the Valdosta City School Board.

Approved and adopted, this 11th day of November, 2010.

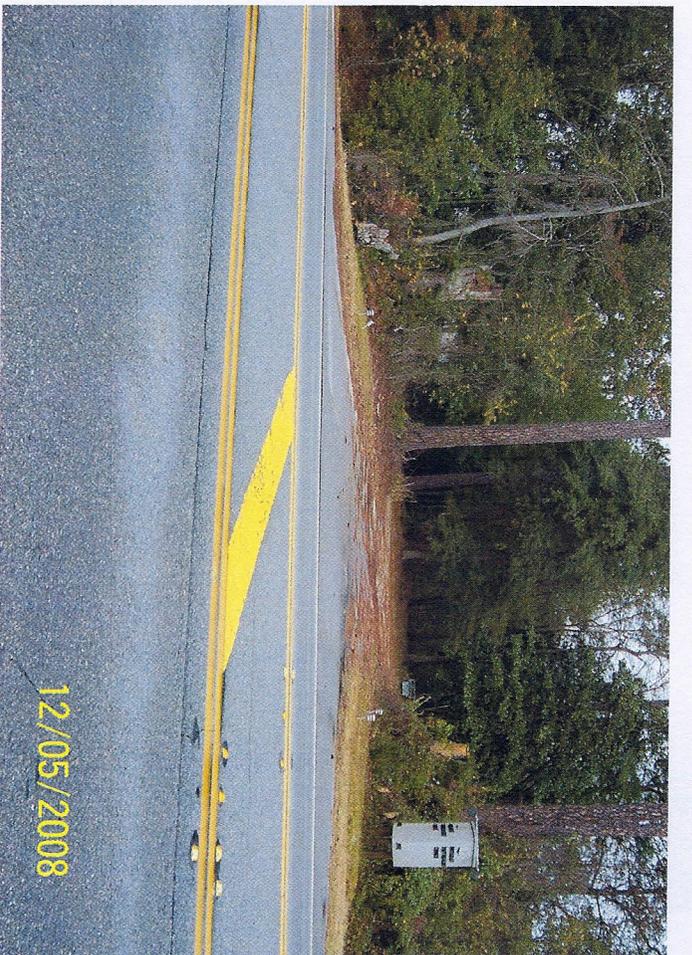
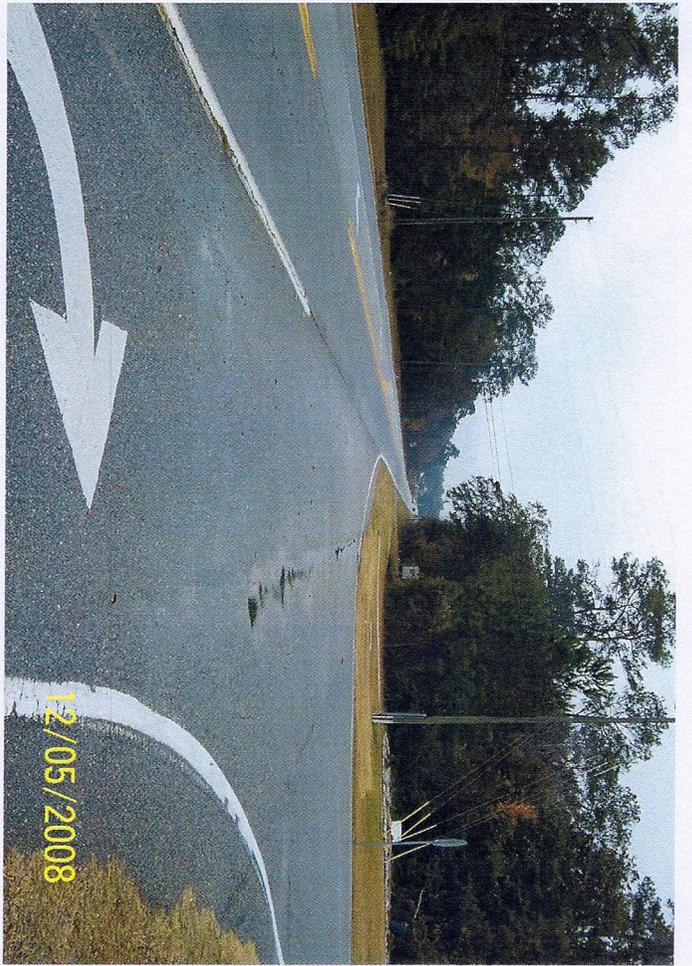
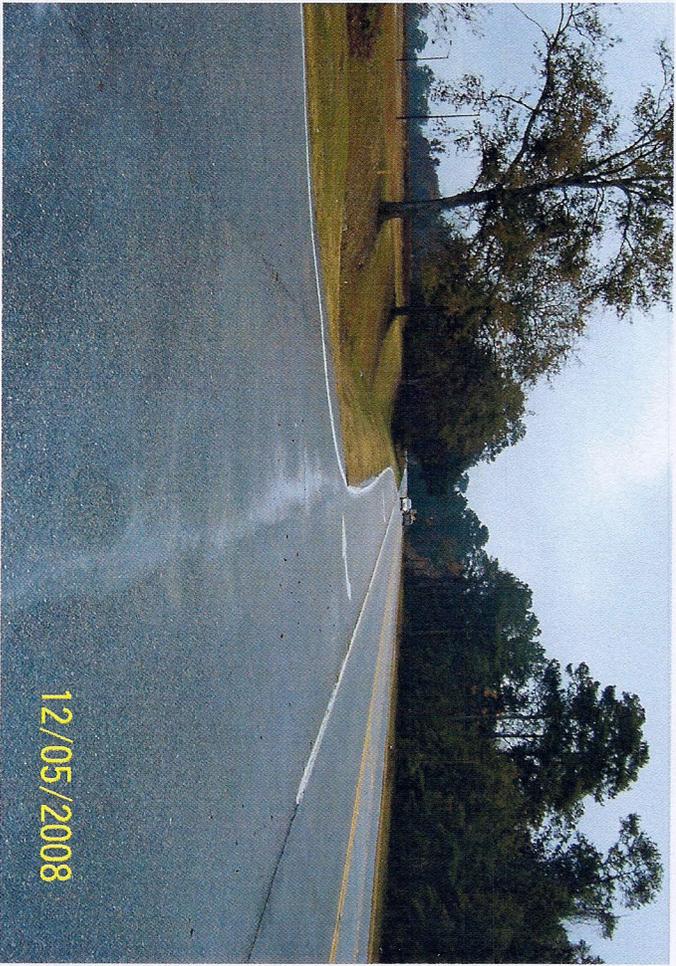


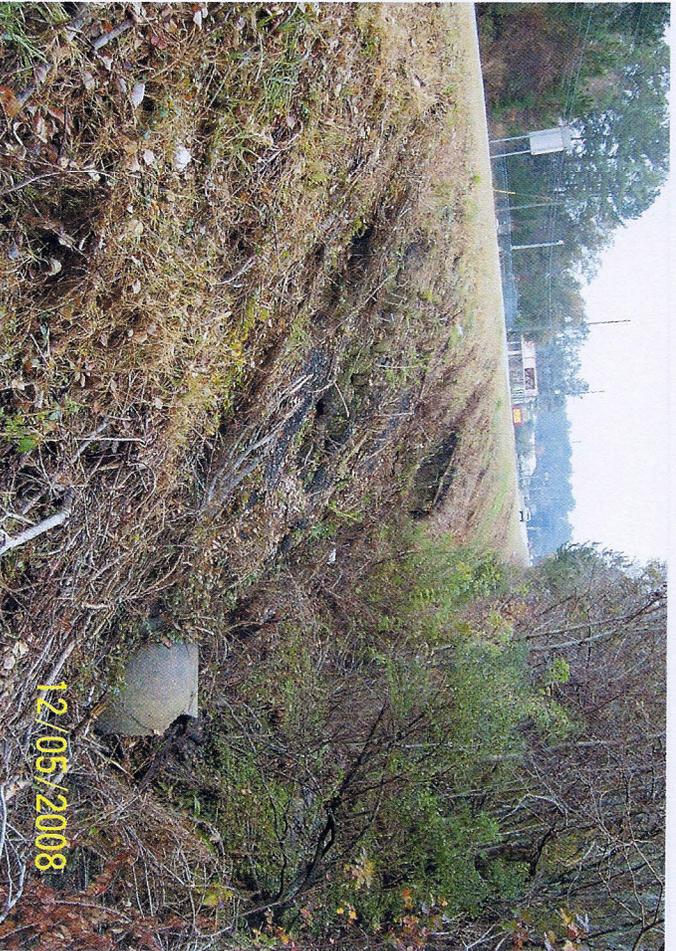
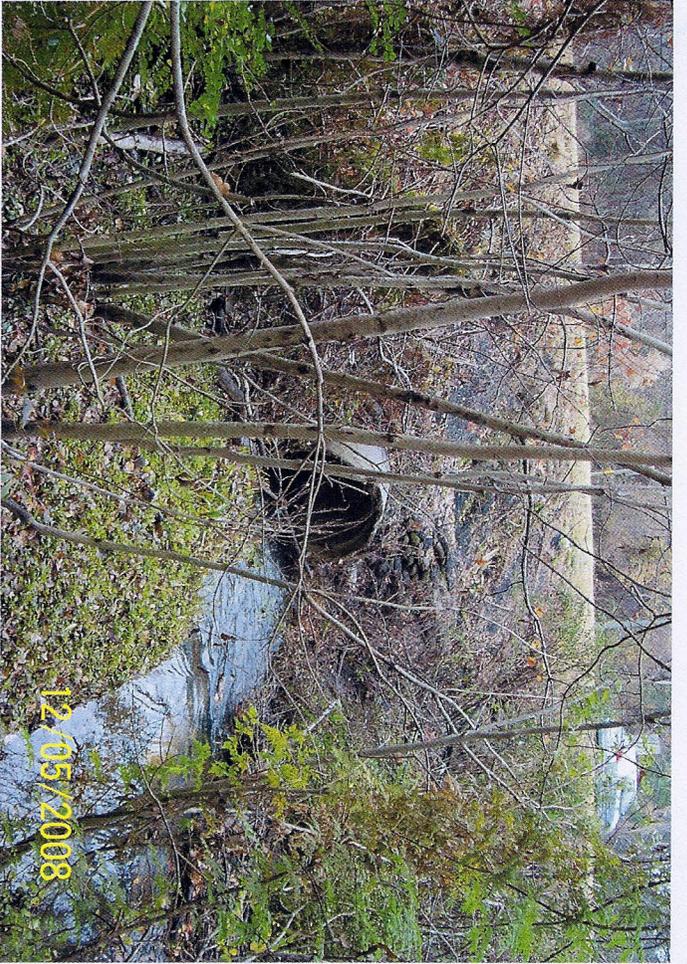
John J. Fretti, Mayor

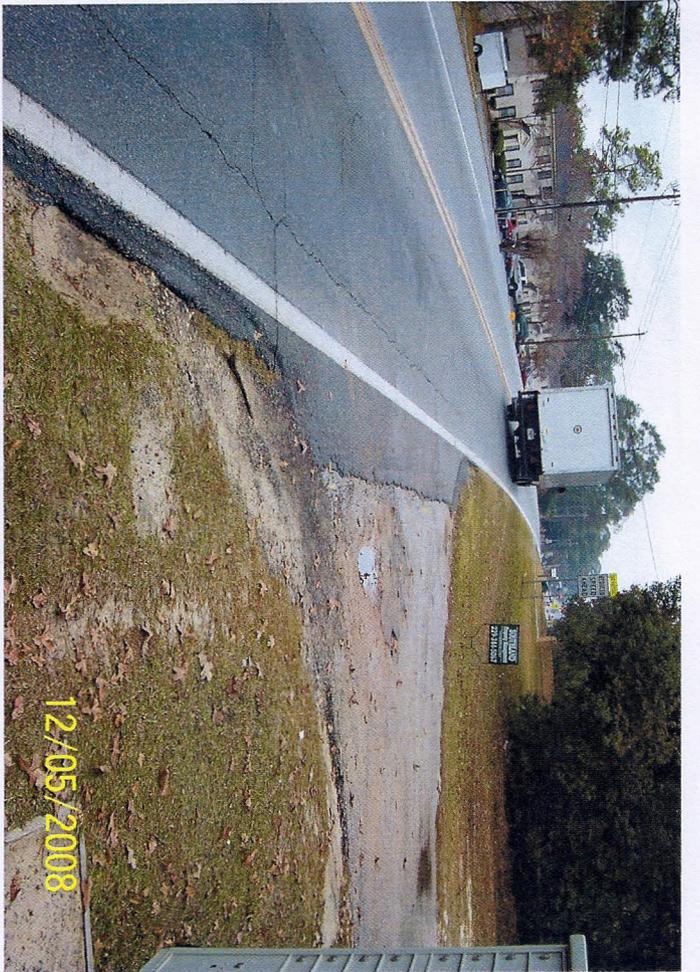
ATTEST:



Teresa S. Bolden, Clerk of Council







**Vehicle Traffic Count
for
Intersections Leading to
J.L. Newbern Middle School**

| Time | Park B/W Forrest & Lakeland | Park & Forrest | Forrest North of Leone | Forrest B/W Park & Ricardo | Park Ave B/W Jaycee Shack & J.L. Newbern Middle School |
|----------------|-----------------------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| 7:00 AM | 608 | 707 | 625 | 769 | 286 |
| 8:00 AM | 674 | 757 | 602 | 814 | 319 |
| 3:00 PM | 688 | 1051 | 649 | 916 | 292 |
| 4:00 PM | 546 | 968 | 746 | 1019 | 360 |

* Traffic counts as reported by MetroCount Traffic Executive system

Valdosta schools taking part in Walk to School Day

VALDOSTA — Southeast Elementary School, S.L. Mason Elementary School, W.G. Nunn Elementary School and J.L. Newbern Middle School are joining schools from around the world to celebrate International Walk to School Day on Wednesday, Oct. 6.

About 100 Valdosta City School System students will make the walk to school Wednesday with their parents, teachers and

community leaders.

The participants will gather at 7:30 a.m. and the walk will begin at 7:45 a.m. Once the walkers reach school, there will be a short assembly on pedestrian and bike safety with a light breakfast.

In the United States, this event is expected to include 5,000 schools from all 50 states.

Walkers from the U.S. will join children and adults in more than 40

countries around the world who will walk to school on this day.

The purpose of the Walk to School event is to work to create safer routes for walking and bicycling. The event emphasizes the importance of increasing physical activity among children, pedestrian safety, traffic congestion, concern for the environment and building connections between families, schools and the broader community.

