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AUGUSTA COUNTY RECEIVES TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT GRANT Stuarts Draft Schools Will Benefit

Augusta County announced today that the County will receive a Transportation Enhancement Grant from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). The money will be used for the Scholastic Way Sidewalk Project to improve conditions for walking to and from the Stuarts Draft School Complex. The County will receive \$136,500 which will provide funding for the construction of sidewalks and curb and gutter along the heavily traveled Augusta Farms Road (Route 649) and within the Stuarts Draft Schools' Complex service area. This project will also provide pedestrian access for a 400 residential Planned Unit Development less than a quarter mile from the school area. Additionally, funds will provide for dusk-to-dawn lights, crosswalks and signage as well as bike racks at the schools. Through this project, students will also be educated on the importance of exercise and how this project will provide more recreational opportunities.

The Transportation Enhancement (TE) program is a federally funded program administered through the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). Transportation Enhancement activities include community-based projects that expand travel choices and enhance the transportation experience by improving the cultural, historic, aesthetic and environmental aspects of our transportation infrastructure. For example, projects can include creation of pedestrian facilities, streetscape improvements, refurbishment of historic transportation facilities, and other investments that enhance communities and access. The federal government provides funding for TE projects through our nation's surface transportation legislation.

The project supports the Region's bicycle and pedestrian plan that was adopted by Augusta County and emphasizes education, enforcement, encouragement and physical improvements that ensure that bicyclists and pedestrians share the road safely with motorists. The Augusta County Scholastic Way project is an excellent example of a project designed to meet the goals of the regional plan.

"We are very excited to have been selected for this funding," said Jeremy Shifflett, Augusta County Board of Supervisor member. "This funding is an integral part of the County's transportation program and will help make walking a more realistic and safer option for students at Stuarts Draft schools, as well as the citizens that live in the nearby neighborhoods. This has been a long awaited project and I am glad it's finally beginning to move forward to completion," Shifflett said.

With the assistance of the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission, the Region's planning organization; Augusta County studied ways to design solutions promoting safe walking to school in this area and applied for the funding over the course of several years. This project has received funding from VDOT's Transportation Enhancement program for three consecutive years totaling \$519,500.