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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
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Board Matter

December 7, 2009

Madam Chairman—for our children to be able to walk to school on safe routes, we need to ensure that infrastructure is in place. We have heard anecdotally that schools and parents would encourage more children to walk if sidewalks and trails were in place along many of the potential walking routes.

We need to develop lines of communication among the schools, PTAs, and appropriate County agencies so that a list of areas where sidewalks and trails are missing can be compiled. Then, as funds become available, these sidewalks and trails can be built.

Funding for capital projects is difficult to come by these days so it behooves both schools and County to collaborate on any grant applications that would provide dollars and assistance in getting our children walking. We have a resource in the federal Safe Routes to School program and I am told that over \$13 million has been allocated to Virginia for SRTS programs. Fairfax County should actively go after this grant money. Funds available through this program could be used to build sidewalks, trails, bike lanes, and traffic calming projects, and purchase bike parking facilities at schools and other infrastructure. Two of our schools are benefiting from this program, Lynbrook and Louise Archer elementary schools. I will be visiting the Lynbrook walking school bus program shortly.

Madam Chairman—I move that the Board direct County staff to work with their School counterparts to 1) identify specific locations where construction of trails and sidewalks would expand walking routes; and 2) pursue funding through the Safe Routes to School program.