



Communities awarded mini-grants to fund quick-build projects for safe, active youth travel

*Communities in NM, NC and MI receive awards to support safety in underserved communities
where children and teens walk and bike*

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (April 18, 2024) – The National Center for Safe Routes to School is pleased to award mini-grants to the Pueblo of Jemez, NM; the town of Winterville, NC; and the city of Detroit, MI. In the second year of a pilot program made possible by General Motors (GM), grants of up to \$10,000 are provided to these communities for low-cost, quick-build infrastructure improvements to provide immediate safety benefits in underserved areas where children and teens walk and bike.

“We are thrilled to partner with GM to support communities that are creating safe spaces for children to walk and roll,” said Nancy Pullen-Seufert, Director, National Center for Safe Routes to School, UNC Highway Safety Research Center. “Winterville, the Pueblo of Jemez, and Detroit have all designed projects that leverage their unique community’s strengths and partnerships. These projects positively impact communities and advance our understanding of the role quick build projects can play in improving safety and mobility on real streets and in actual neighborhoods.”

“This grant program is a unique opportunity for GM to support important youth road safety work at the community level,” said Hal Garling, Senior Manager, Corporate Grantmaking at GM. “We thank the National Center for Safe Routes to School for their work to increase pedestrian safety, especially among kids and teens and we look forward to seeing these infrastructure improvement projects come to life across the country.”

Pueblo of Jemez, New Mexico

The Pueblo of Jemez will create a pedestrian walkway and improve crossings for bike paths on an unpaved road leading to Jemez Day School. Orange barrels, cones, flexible bollards, planter pots, and asphalt chalk will be used, and students will be engaged in planting flowers and painting.

“The Pueblo of Jemez has embraced this project as a collaborative opportunity to demonstrate how quick build projects represent an innovative approach to pedestrian and bicycle safety for students on tribal lands and dirt roads,” said Sheri Bozic, Director of Planning and Development for the Pueblo of Jemez. “We hope that this project can serve as a positive example throughout the state of New Mexico and that other communities can use it to develop similar quick build projects.”



Town of Winterville, North Carolina

The Town of Winterville will use the grant funding to install low-cost curb extensions at three separate intersections along a main pedestrian route serving AG Cox Middle School and WH Robinson Elementary. The project serves as an example of close collaboration between the town and North Carolina Department of Transportation to install these changes on state-owned roads.

“The Town of Winterville is excited to partner with the National Center for Safe Routes to School, General Motors, and the North Carolina Department of Transportation,” said Assistant Town Manager Anthony Bowers. “This funding is a great opportunity to bring enhancements to our community that would have not been possible otherwise. The collaboration from these entities is going to enable us to establish much safer routes for the children in our growing, walkable community.”

City of Detroit, Michigan

The City of Detroit is using the funding to install curb extensions at a crossing that serves the students of Noble Elementary-Middle School and the adjoining Littlefield Park. The location was identified as a Slow Street and a critical on-street segment of the 30-mile Joe Louis Greenway. This project represents an important first step toward implementing Detroit’s 300-mile Slow Street network.

“The City of Detroit is committed to improving safety and access for residents, especially students going to and from school,” said Ron Brundidge, City of Detroit Director of Public Works. “This project will advance several safety and mobility goals for the surrounding community and give our department valuable feedback to inform similar improvements across the city.”

The National Center for Safe Routes to School will write case studies about each of the projects and their impacts after completion this spring.

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National Center for Safe Routes to School

Established in 2006, the National Center for Safe Routes to School helps communities change their culture around safe and active travel. Its role includes leading the Vision Zero for Youth initiative, national coordination and technical assistance for U.S. Walk & Roll to School Day and Bike & Roll to School Day, and providing tools, training, research, and evaluation for safe walking and bicycling for children and youth. The National Center for Safe Routes to School served as the U.S. Federal Highway Administration’s clearinghouse for the federal SRTS program for eleven years. It is located at the UNC Highway Safety Research Center, hsrc.unc.edu.