

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Harrodsburg Awarded Federal Funds

**Harrodsburg First Executive Director Julie Wagner is pleased to announce that the City of Harrodsburg has been awarded \$457,208 in Federal Funding.**

The project will improve and construct sidewalks along the U.S. 68 corridor to connect western residential neighborhoods to schools as well as essential services, such as medical and shopping. Sidewalks will be built on the north and south sides of U.S. 68 from U.S. 127 to KY 152 and on the north side of U.S. 68 from the junction of KY 152 to E. Harlow Elementary on Perryville Street. In addition, the project will repair a deteriorating retention wall on U.S. 68, which leans more than a foot over the sidewalk, and place crosswalks at needed intersections along the route providing access to schools and medical facilities.

The funding is through a combination of the federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and the Safe Routes to School program. Both federally funded programs are administered by the Office of Local Programs in the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's Department of Rural and Municipal Aid.

"The project budget exceeds \$509,000 of improvements and I am pleased to report that the City of Harrodsburg has been approved to contribute over \$51,000 of "in-kind" services rather than the typical 20% cash match," said Wagner who also explains "It is extremely rare to gain permission to match federal funds with in-kind services, and it goes to show that Governor Beshear understands the complexities our small communities are facing with balancing the budget. We cannot adequately express our gratitude."

"Enhancing a community's transportation choices also enhances the quality of life for its citizens," Gov. Beshear said. "We are confident this project will provide positive benefits for residents of Harrodsburg. This project can go a long way toward developing the good habits of an active, healthy lifestyle."

"It has long been the desire of our local leaders to improve pedestrian access to our key anchors," said Julie Wagner, of Harrodsburg First Main Street Program, who submitted the grant on behalf of the City of Harrodsburg. "Downtown Harrodsburg will certainly benefit from safer access between our historic district and Evan Harlow Elementary. Without access to essential services, our citizens have suffered difficult pathways. Governor Beshear's support means the world to our local community and we cannot thank him enough."

"I appreciate the hard work put forth by Harrodsburg in securing this federal funding for the critical project repairing and constructing sidewalks for safe pedestrian routes," said Sen. Tom Buford, who represents Mercer County. "As this community continues to grow with young families and their children, ensuring safe transportation is so important, especially when our residents need these routes to walk to school, or medical appointments."

"On behalf of all citizens of Mercer County, we are pleased to have the Governor's faith and support in this project," Mercer County Judge-Executive Milward Dedman said. "Infrastructure improvements to the U.S. 68 Corridor will allow safer access to Evan Harlow Elementary as well as the James B. Haggin Memorial Hospital. This project will provide safer passage to and from these key anchors as well as connect the downtown historic district to a critical transportation corridor."

Under the Safe Routes program, cities and counties can apply for funding for a broad range of projects and activities in close proximity to elementary and middle schools. Eligible projects and activities include new or improved sidewalks, crosswalks and bike lanes, public awareness campaigns, and traffic enforcement near schools. As much as \$250,000 can be awarded to a single project.

TAP assists communities in funding transportation improvements such as safe bicycle and pedestrian facilities, scenic routes, beautification and other investments. Projects may be a mix of elements and accessible to the general public or targeted to a broad segment of the general public.

PROJECT BUDGET:

Safe Routes to School	\$ 250,000
Fed. TAP Funds	\$ 207,208
<u>Local Match</u>	<u>\$ 51,892</u>
Total Project	\$ 509,100

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