**Month date, year**

New Jersey Safe Routes to School

New Jersey Department of Transportation

Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Dear New Jersey Safe Routes to School:

**Insert New Jersey Public Schools or municipality name here** recognize that there is a need to promote the health and safety of our children. Nearly one out of threechildren (31%) ages 10-17 are overweight or obese in New Jersey, and New Jersey has the second highest rate of obesity (17.9%) for low-income children ages 2-5. As a result**,** the lack of physical activity has had a significant impact on children’s health and well-being, resulting in higher rates of obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and other related health concerns compared to 30 years ago. Driving children to school by private vehicle and idling in the school vicinity contributes to traffic congestion and air pollution near the school, and air pollution near schools can have adverse effects on student health as well as on the local environment.

Bicycling and walking to school can have a positive mental and physical impact on the health of children and youth and helps them arrive at school ready to learn. Providing safer routes to and from schools aims to decrease pedestrian and bicycling related injuries, not just for students but for the entire community. The New Jersey Safe Routes to School program uses education, encouragement, infrastructure and enforcement strategies to help make walking and bicycling to school safer and more attractive to children. A successful Safe Routes to School program involves schools, school boards, citizens and local government to collaborate to enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school safely.

Therefore, **New Jersey Public Schools** support the New Jersey Safe Routes to School program which enables and encourages students to walk and bicycle to school and the development and maintenance of safe ways to walk and bicycle to school.

Sincerely,

**Name**

**Title
School District, school or municipality name**