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September 20, 2019

Dear Metropolitan Planning Commission,

For six years, the Springfield Public School District has supported the Springfield Safe Routes to School program to do the important work of encouraging students to walk and roll to school safely.

Springfield Public Schools (SPS) has supported the position financially by providing an office, access to district vehicles and staff to transport the Bicycle Safety Trailer, and by matching the program with .5 FTE to create a full-time coordinator position. The decision to support the program stemmed from the understanding that Safe Routes to School (SRTS) supported a number of core values of SPS including increasing student safety and physical activity.

The program serves the district with the Six E's of SRTS, Education, Encouragement, Enforcement, Evaluation, Engineering and Equity. It does so in the following ways:

Springfield SRTS provides bike and pedestrian safety education to hundreds of students each year.

The Springfield Coordinator works with the K-8 schools to provide over fifty encouragement events each year which include Walk and Roll Challenge Month, Bike Rodeos and Walking School Buses, which impact thousands of students annually.

The program partners with local law enforcement and school crossing guards to enforce traffic laws.

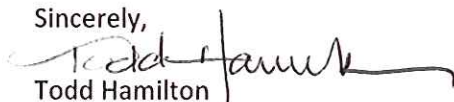
In partnership with the city and county, Springfield SRTS has identified dozens of projects, many of which have been included in plans and ultimately funded and constructed improving safety around our schools.

Springfield SRTS does important evaluation work to understand how the student transportation system works including tracking student modes, conducting speed studies, analyzing crosswalk use and infrastructure need.

Finally, SRTS works with many community partners to ensure that it is delivered equitably and supports those students who are most vulnerable.

The SRTS Coordinator position supports the Districts transportation work by advocating for transportation options to over 7,000 K-8 students and adds capacity to the SPS Transportation Team. The Springfield Public School District plans to continue to support this important work.

Sincerely,



Todd Hamilton
Superintendent
Springfield Public Schools