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**MAYOR REDD ANNOUNCES SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL FUNDING FOR THE MORGAN VILLAGE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROJECT**

**CAMDEN, NJ** - Mayor Dana L. Redd today announced that the City of Camden is the recipient of a Safe Routes to School Award for the Morgan Village Safe Routes to School Project. Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a federally funded program administered by the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) in partnership with the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) that improves bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure to enable and encourage children in grades K-8 to walk and bike to school.

The City of Camden has been selected via a competitive grant application process to receive \$317,200 to complete traffic calming measures and install pedestrian and bicycle amenities in the neighborhood of Morgan Village. Over 141 applications for funding were submitted, totaling over \$43 million. Twenty-four municipalities were awarded grants totaling \$5.6 million.

“The City of Camden is committed to encouraging students to safely walk and bicycle to school,” Mayor Redd said. “This grant from Safe Routes to School will help us make a real difference for the hundreds of students who attend school in Morgan Village--to their physical development, personal safety, and the environment of their community.”

Morgan Village is a highly walkable neighborhood in Camden, which is home to H.B. Wilson Family School and the Creative Arts Morgan Village Performing Arts Academy. Over 700 children in grades K-8 will benefit from the pedestrian and bicycle safety measures that will be installed, allowing students to safely walk and bike to school.

On the news of the award, Esther Gross, Executive Director of the Morgan Village Circle Community Development Corporation, expressed her joy of the news and the importance of the project. “The safety of our children in the Morgan Village Community is our top priority,” stated Ms. Gross. “In many places, it is unsafe for the children to cross the street. This grant will allow us to make improvements that will benefit both the students as well as the entire community,” she added.

According to the NJDOT, the Safe Routes to School Program has been very popular and has become highly competitive in recent years, as communities work to promote walking and bicycling to school.

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