

LCPS CAMPAIGN TO REDUCE ROAD CONGESTION

Traffic congestion has increased steadily over the years and is a major issue in Loudoun County; it comes as no surprise that congestion around Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) facilities has also increased.

To help alleviate this problem, LCPS has launched a “Congestion Must Go” campaign, focused on minimizing traffic congestion in and around school campuses, surrounding road networks and neighboring communities. The goal of the “Congestion Must Go” campaign is to actively promote bus ridership, walking, biking and carpooling, while increasing student safety.

As part of this effort, LCPS is promoting participation in Walk to School Day on Wednesday, Oct. 2. Information about how to plan an event to promote health and safe walking to school is available at <http://www.walkbiketoschool.org/>.

LCPS created a task force composed of staff from the Department of Support Services (Planning Division and Transportation Division) and the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Safe Routes to Schools Program. The team will work closely with schools, school communities, parent organizations and homeowners’ associations to promote activities, programs and ideas that can be implemented to help achieve the goals of the campaign.

Kevin Lewis, LCPS assistant superintendent for Support Services, said, “Reducing the volume of cars that arrive daily at schools to drop off and pick up children is a priority for Loudoun County Public Schools. Parents will be inconvenienced less and the impact on surrounding communities will be reduced if more children ride the bus, ride their bikes, join ‘walking school buses’ or walk to get to school.”

The “Congestion Must Go” campaign is being piloted at a small number of schools for the 2019-2020 school year. Schools in the initial effort include Arcola, Catoctin, Guilford, Horizon, Pinebrook, Rosa Lee Carter, Sugarland and Waxpool elementary schools, as well as Independence, Loudoun County and Rock Ridge high schools. The campaign will expand to additional LCPS schools in the future.

Contact the LCPS Congestion Must Go Task Force at 571-252-1103 or email Donna Torraca at CongestionMustGo@lcps.org for additional information.