

## **MEDIA ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **For more information, contact:**

Heather Murphy, Organizer  
Safe Routes to School Florida Network  
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors  
850-228-0028

## **Congressman John Mica Supports Safe Routes to School at Westside Elementary, Daytona Beach, Florida**

**WHAT:** Westside Elementary School will host an event to encourage more children to safely walk and bicycle to and from school as part of the federal Safe Routes to School program and newly awarded Walking School Bus grant.

Created by Congress in 2005 as part of the SAFETEA-LU transportation law, the federal Safe Routes to School program allows schools and communities to retrofit roads, and to create sidewalks and bike paths to allow children to safely walk and bicycle to school. Funding also supports education, promotion and enforcement campaigns. As more children are able to safely walk and bicycle to school, children and their communities benefit from reduced traffic congestion, better air quality and healthier lifestyles.

**WHO:** **Congressman John Mica**, local leaders, community members and students including:

- **Principal Judi Winch, Westside Elementary School**
- **Dr. Al Williams, Volusia County School Board**
- **Leigh Matusick, Deland City Commissioner and Volusia TPO Board Vice-Chairperson**
- **Dr. Bonita Sorensen, Volusia County Health Department Director**
- **George Lovett, Director of Transportation Development, Florida Department of Transportation Region 5**
- **Frank Bruno, Volusia County Council Chair**

**WHEN:** October 22, 2010, 2:30pm

**WHERE:** Westside Elementary School, 1210 Jimmy Ann Dr, Daytona Beach, Florida

**Background:** Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a national and international movement to create safe, convenient, and fun opportunities for children to bicycle and walk to and from schools. The program has been designed to reverse the decline in children walking and bicycling to schools. Safe Routes to School can also play a critical role in reversing the alarming nationwide trend toward childhood obesity and inactivity.

Safe Routes to School programs are built on collaborative partnerships among many stakeholders that include educators, parents, students, elected officials, engineers, city planners, business and community leaders, health officials, and bicycle and pedestrian advocates. The most successful SRTS programs incorporate the five E's—evaluation, education, encouragement, engineering, and enforcement. The goal of Safe Routes to School is to get more children bicycling and walking to schools safely every day. For more information, visit [www.saferoutespartnership.org](http://www.saferoutespartnership.org) and [www.saferoutesinfo.org](http://www.saferoutesinfo.org).

###