2016 All-Star Community Award Application

City: Manning

Title of Project: Safe Route to School

City's Population: 1,500

In a few sentences, give a summary of the project and why it was needed:

Manning is divided by Highway 141 and is commonly referred to as “North Manning” and “South Manning” with no safe way to get from one side (residential and downtown) to the other (where the school is located). Pairing the last Safe Routes to School Funding with local donations, Great Places grant money, local grant money, and countless fundraisers, the community was able to build a trail to bridge the gap between North and South Manning and to allow for children to get to school safely.

Explain the specific role of your city in this project:

The City spearheaded the entire project. The city wrote the initial grants. The biggest hurdle that the City had to overcome was finding additional funding when the project turned out to be over $208,000 over budget because of DNR requirements and bridge issues. Instead of giving up like some might, the City moved full speed ahead while coming up with the additional funds. City staff and elected officials spearheaded fundraising and participated in all aspects of the fundraising activities—including cleaning up donkey poop at the donkey basketball fundraisers and riding in the Trail to Nowhere fundraisers. The city partnered with a firm to negotiate free easements for the trail. The City also worked with the engineers and DOT for the bidding, construction administration, and seeing the project to completion. It was the city’s vision and drive that made this project a reality.

In a few sentences, what future impact will this project have on your community?

The project was completed in November 2015. Despite the weather, students and other community members have already been using the trail through the winter. The excitement has also grown and more trail support is being shown by the community. Additionally, the trail played a key part in the location selection for the Carroll County Freedom Rock and the new Boulders Inn & Suites that will be built in 2016.

Total cost of project: $533,857.48

List where funding came from. (grants, donations, city funds, etc):

SRTS Grant, Transportation Alternative, Great Places, City funds, local fundraisers, local grants
Total time project took/projected to take for completion. Please include start date and end date. (To qualify the project must be operating or completed between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2015):

Initial planning started 2012/2013 Construction Started summer 2015 and completed November 2015

Resources. (Please list Web sites judges may reference if they seek additional information.):

www.manningia.com