

MEMORANDUM

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Division of Transportation Development
4201 East Arkansas Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80222
(303) 757-9088



DATE: September 4, 2012

TO: Transit and Intermodal Committee

FROM: Debra Perkins-Smith, DTD Director

SUBJECT: Safe Routes to School (SRTS) 2013 Funding Recommendation

2013 SRTS Funding

CDOT's adopted FY13 budget lists \$2.168M funds for its Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program. While the Transportation Commission has directed CDOT to keep FY13 budgets "whole" as much as possible, the combined programs in the MAP 21 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) for FY 13 are 30% less than the same programs under SAFETEA-LU levels.

In recognition of this national reduction, CDOT staff is recommending that FY13 SRTS budget be funded at 30% less in FY 13 for a total of \$1.517M. Program funding in FY14 and beyond will be discussed as part of the FY 14 budget development.

2013 Call for Projects

In keeping with the direction of the Transit and Intermodal Committee, the Colorado Department of Transportation announced the call for 2013 SRTS applications on August 31st 2012. CDOT awards grants to local agencies for both non-infrastructure (education) and infrastructure (capital) projects in order to help communities get more K-8 students walking and bicycling where it is safe and to fix conditions where it is not safe. Eligible applicants include schools, school districts, and local governments.

Applications are available online at <http://www.coloradodot.info/programs/bikeped/safe-routes>. The application deadline is 4 p.m. on Friday, December 7, 2012.

Background

The Safe Routes to School Program is specifically called out in state legislation which states: *"Safe Routes to School Program. The Commission shall establish and the department shall administer safe routes to school program to distribute federal funds received by the state to political subdivisions of the state for projects to improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists in school areas."* 43 CRS 1-1601.

MAP 21 includes eligibility for SRTS under the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and requires that projects funded with TAP funds be selected through a competitive process. SRTS meets that requirement with a rigorous selection process for grants.

All infrastructure applications are reviewed by the CDOT Regions prior to being scored by the 9 member SRTS Advisory Committee created in state statute and including representatives from MPO's, TPR's, pedestrians, bicyclists, educators, law enforcement and parents. The funds are allocated based on population of K-8 students and 75% is awarded to urbanized areas.

All SRTS grants awarded are performance based with before and after results reported for all projects. Applicants requesting funding for infrastructure projects are also required to include an educational component in their project in order to assure a sustainable program. At a minimum, grantees are required to collect and report information from a pre- and post-evaluations using the Safe Routes to School Student In-class Tally and Parent Survey, and provide a final accomplishment report.

On average, CDOT receives four times the number of requests than can be funded. Only the best projects out of this large group of requests are selected after an intensive committee review process. The program has reduced vehicle trips and increased the number of children walking and biking to school by as much as 31% depending on the school. Based on data gleaned from grantee final accomplishment reports, approximately 95% of schools receiving funding had significantly increased rates of children walking/biking to school and witnessed substantial safety improvements.

CDOT has funded approximately 25 projects per year since 2006. In recent years, all SRTS projects have been completed in 2 years or less. Since the program's inception in 2005, CDOT SRTS programs have reached more than 500 schools statewide. This is more than 60 new schools per year and over 200,000 Colorado students.