



COLORADO

Department of Transportation

Division of Transportation Development

4201 E. Arkansas Ave
Denver, CO 80222

DATE: February 19, 2015
TO: Transportation Commission
FROM: Debra Perkins-Smith, Director, DTD
SUBJECT: Safe Routes to School (SRTS) FY15 Projects

Purpose

This memo summarizes information about the list of Safe Routes to School (SRTS) projects recommended for funding for FY15.

Action Requested

Approve the SRTS projects for FY15 as recommended by the SRTS Advisory Committee.

Background

The SRTS program was established in 2005 by the federal transportation bill, SAFETEA-LU, to enable and encourage children from Kindergarten through 8th grade, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to and from school; to make walking and bicycling to school safe and more appealing; and to facilitate the planning, development and implementation of projects that will improve safety, and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools.

Since its inception in 2005, CDOT's SRTS program has distributed \$17.4 million FHWA funds through 191 grants to schools, school districts, cities, towns, and counties for both infrastructure (capital) and non-infrastructure (education and encouragement) projects. On average, 100 schools per year benefit from this program, this equates to more than 375,000 total Colorado students to date. Additionally, parents, teachers, drivers, and other community members also benefit from SRTS programs.

Under MAP-21, SRTS was combined with other programs and included within the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). Because the amount of Federal funding for TAP was reduced from the level formerly allocated to Transportation Enhancement (TE), Commission decided not to designate a specific portion of TAP funds for SRTS beyond FY13. The Commission did, however, allocate funds on a one time basis in FY13 so the program could continue while other options were explored. The program was able to continue in FY14 by using "old" SRTS SAFETEA-LU funding from prior years (project savings from project closeouts).

For the FY15 SRTS program, the Colorado State legislature passed HB14-1301 and Governor Hickenlooper signed it into law on June 3, 2014. The legislation provided \$700,000 as a one-year allocation from state general funds for non-infrastructure projects, and removed language requiring funds to be distributed based in proportion to the geographic distribution of K-8 student population. At CDOT's request, the Joint Budget Committee approved a roll forward request to meet the demand of two year contracts for these reimbursement grants. There was no allocation for infrastructure projects.

Details

For FY15, CDOT has \$700,000 state general funds to distribute as allocated by the passage of HB14-1301. A total of 18 qualified applications were received with representation from all five CDOT regions. Seventy-eight percent of projects are from MPO areas and 22 percent from TPRs. Total requests equaled \$1,017,668 - exceeding the amount available by \$247,668.

The applications were reviewed and scored by the Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee, which, by rule, consists of representatives of MPOs, TPRs, educators, pedestrians, bicyclists, law enforcement, and parents.

The Committee spends hours reading and scoring every project, and then comes together for a full day to discuss, evaluate and determine the very best projects for funding. The Committee also ensures all budget items are eligible and appropriate to the project. In a few cases where items are ineligible, they are removed from the application and the award amount is reduced.



Thirteen projects are being recommended for funding for FY15 totaling the full \$700,000. Attached is a total project list for FY2015 with the 13 recommended projects highlighted.

Examples of projects that are being recommended for funding include:

- a) One grantee will be working with six elementary schools to encourage and incentivize students to bike and walk to school. As more students bike and walk, the more reward points they earn to redeem at participating businesses. This same program also includes specific outreach designed to target low-income and Spanish-speaking families. It will also include specific events that teach and promote safety. Pre and post evaluations will be a part of the program.
- b) Another grantee plans to work with two schools to implement specific safety trainings and events to encourage their students to bike and walk. They plan to develop after school walking and biking clubs, Walk to School Day events, Bike to School Day events, Walk n' Wheel days (special days that provide incentives for participating), and parent/teacher traffic safety skills training. Pre and post evaluations will be part of the program.
- c) A mountain community is partnering with two schools to launch Hike and Bike to School Days. They will provide safety education through bike rodeos, and work with students and parents to identify routes for biking and walking. They'll additionally create a newspaper and radio campaign promoting walking and biking to school that will run prior to each school year. Social media and a special website will also be incorporated into the program. Pre and post evaluations will be part of the program.
- d) Another project involves a rural town which has recently completed infrastructure improvements at their elementary school. The local parks and recreation department will work with the elementary school to implement programs to encourage all students living within two miles of the school to either bike or walk to school. The program includes a bicycle and pedestrian safety education train-the-trainer program, annual education and encouragement activities for students and parents, and communication and social media messaging around biking and walking safety. Pre and post evaluations will be part of the program.

Key Benefits

Colorado is seeing a positive impact from SRTS. In a student classroom survey conducted in 42 elementary and middle schools in Colorado who implemented an education and encouragement SRTS program, the number of students reporting that they walked or biked to school on the days of the tally increased by 17.4%, with more than 25% of the children at these schools walking and biking. Additionally, the number of children arriving at school in a family vehicle or bus decreased at these schools. These results indicate a trend in enabling and encouraging more children to walk and bike to school and to reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools.

In schools with SRTS programs, more students are walking and biking; more parents report that their child's school is encouraging students to walk and bike; more school district wellness policies contain policies that encourage walking and biking to school; and more parents report that their students are asking permission to walk and bike to school. The 13 projects proposed for approval will allow for the great work that has already occurred in Colorado through education and encouragement projects to continue.

Next Steps

- Commission approval of the FY15 2015 SRTS project list selected by the SRTS Advisory Committee.
- Implementation of projects by June 30, 2017

Attachments

- Resolution
- FY 2015 SRTS Projects List
- 2014-15 SRTS Advisory Committee members



Transportation Commission Resolution

February 19, 2015

WHEREAS, in 2004, C.R.S. 43-1-1604 required the Transportation Commission of Colorado to establish and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) to administer a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program to distribute federal funds to eligible projects that enable and encourage children K-8 to bicycle and walk to school; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, Colorado State Legislators passed HB14-1301 allocating \$700,000 in state general funds to SRTS for FY15; and

WHEREAS, Colorado SRTS rules changed in 2014 to allow for distribution of state funds; and

WHEREAS, CDOT supports walking and biking as modes of transportation in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, Colorado is a national leader in SRTS, funding programs that have reached more than 936 schools statewide since 2005. This is more than 100 schools per year on average and more than 375,000 total Colorado students to date (in addition to parents, teachers, drivers, and community members who are also impacted by SRTS programs); and

WHEREAS, the SRTS program has replaced vehicle trips and increased the number of children walking and biking to school by as much as 31% in some schools; and

WHEREAS, approximately 95% of schools receiving SRTS funding had significantly increased rates of children walking and biking to school; and

WHEREAS, CDOT has awarded more than \$17.4 million in FHWA funds from 2005 through 2014 for SRTS program grants; and

WHEREAS, Colorado SRTS Advisory Committee was appointed by the CDOT Executive Director as per state statute to represent educators, parents, law enforcement, pedestrians, bicyclists, and transportation advisors to review all applications and to recommend projects for funding; and

WHEREAS, the SRTS Advisory Committee selected projects in January 2015 to recommend to the Commission for approval:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Commission approves the 13 highlighted projects recommended on the Fiscal Year 2015 Safe Routes to School Project List, dated February 19, 2015

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Commission directs staff to take appropriate steps to amend the STIP, if required, and supplement the budget to be able to proceed with contract development.

**FY 2015 Safe Routes to School Project List
Recommended Projects Highlighted
Non-Infrastructure Only - State Funds¹ - No Match Required**

Rank	Application #	Applicant	Project Name	Requested Amount	Region	MPO or TPR?	Final Score	Funded?	Recommended Funding	Accumulative Cost of Projects	Comments
1	16	Town of Buena Vista	Buena Vista SRTS Program	\$69,900.00	5	TPR	72.375	Y	\$ 56,600.00	\$ 56,600.00	Adjusted for unallowed expenses
2	18	Boulder Valley Schools	BLAST-Bikeology Bike Education	\$32,833.00	4	MPO	68.750	Y	\$ 32,673.00	\$ 89,273.00	Adjusted for unallowed expenses
3	7	Boulder County Transportation	Boulder County SRTS - Trip Tracker	\$145,408.00	4	MPO	68.143	Y	\$ 144,608.00	\$ 233,881.00	Adjusted for unallowed expenses
4	12	Jeffco Schools	Jeffco SRTS	\$75,525.00	1	MPO	68.125	Y	\$ 75,525.00	\$ 309,406.00	
5	8	Aurora Public Schools	SRTS - The Walking School Bus	\$11,067.50	1	MPO	68.063	Y	\$ 11,068.00	\$ 320,474.00	
6	3	Thompson School District	SRTS Coordination	\$15,324.00	4	MPO	65.500	Y	\$ 15,324.00	\$ 335,798.00	
7	14	Adams 50 SD	SRTS in Adams 50	\$91,650.00	1	MPO	65.313	Y	\$ 85,650.00	\$ 421,448.00	Adjusted for unallowed expenses
8	4	Weld Co DPHE	Building SRTS Capacity in Weld County	\$84,060.33	4	MPO	64.438	Y	\$ 84,060.00	\$ 505,508.00	
9	6	Colorado Springs SD 11	CSSD 11 SRTS	\$58,800.00	2	MPO	64.063	Y	\$ 58,000.00	\$ 563,508.00	
10	11	Adams SD 14	Adams 14 SRTS	\$37,380.00	1	MPO	63.813	Y	\$ 37,380.00	\$ 600,888.00	
11	1	Steamboat Springs SD	Steamboat SRTS	\$24,314.00	3	TPR	63.625	Y	\$ 24,314.00	\$ 625,202.00	
12	10	Idalia School District RJ-3	Bicycling Education & Expansion	\$25,890.00	4	TPR	63.250	Y	\$ 19,760.00	\$ 644,962.00	Adjusted for unallowed expenses
13	5	City of Fort Collins	SRTS Rotation Schedule & Satellite Bike Fleet	\$67,700.00	4	MPO	62.125	P	\$ 55,038.00	\$ 700,000.00	Partially funded with balance of remaining funds
14	9	City/County of Denver	Denver SRTS	\$118,200.00	1	MPO	62.000	N			Not explained well; minimal parent engagement; included infrastructure component
15	15	Adams 12 Five Star Schools	Adams 12 Five Star SRTS	\$48,626.00	1	MPO	61.857	N			Program is already self-sustaining. No need for SRTS funds
16	17	City of Boulder	Heads Up Boulder	\$80,350.00	4	MPO	61.750	N			Project not clear. Good idea but not focused enough. Outcomes not clearly defined
17	13	Lone Tree Police Dept	Lone Tree SRTS	\$16,660.00	1	MPO	59.438	N			Solution doesn't fit the identified problem
18	2	Douglas County SD	Bike the Safe Route in DCSD	\$13,980.20	4	MPO	54.313	N			Targets students with special needs but cmt questions behavior change and sustainability

¹ \$700,000 was appropriated from general funds - HB14-1301

2014-15 SRTS Advisory Committee (FY15)
2/19/2015

FirstName	LastName	Representing	Agency
Emily	Lindsey	MPO - Pikes Peak	Regional Transportation Planner, Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments
Elizabeth "Biz"	Collins	MPO - Grand Valley	Transportation Planner, Mesa County
John*	Egan	TPR - Southwest	Councilor, Town of Pagosa Springs
Mike	Gibbs	TPR - Eastern	Public Works Director, Town of Elizabeth
Deputy Scott	Sickafoose	Law Enforcement	Deputy Sheriff, Arapahoe County Sheriff's Department
Cate	Townley	Bicyclist Representative	Built Environment Specialist, Colorado Dept of Public Health & Environ.
Gosia	Kung	Pedestrian Representative	Executive Director, WalkDenver
Sarah	Harter	Educator Representative	School Wellness Coordinator St. Vrain Valley Schools & LiveWell Longmont
Jennifer	Cooney	Parent Representative	Parent, Adams 12 School District

*Resigned from committee on 1/6/15 due to work conflicts