

STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



DATE: March 20, 2014
TO: Transportation Commission
FROM: Debra Perkins-Smith, Director, DTD
SUBJECT: Safe Routes to School (SRTS) FY14

Purpose

This memo summarizes information about the list of Safe Routes to School projects recommended for funding for FY 2014.

Action Requested

Accept the recommendation by the Transit and Intermodal Committee to approve the SRTS projects for FY 2014 as selected by the nine-member SRTS Advisory Committee established in state statute.

Background

SRTS is a Federal program designed to enable and encourage more children K-8 to walk and bike to school. Since its inception in 2005, CDOT's SRTS program has distributed \$15.4 million FHWA funds through 175 grants to schools, school districts, cities, towns, and counties for both infrastructure (capital) and non-infrastructure (education and encouragement) projects. Between 60 and 100 schools per year benefit from this program, this equates to more than 300,000 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 decision was not to designate a specific portion of TAP funds for SRTS past FY13. Therefore, only funds available for projects in FY14 are the remaining SAFETEA-LU funds resulting from project savings or project withdrawals (i.e., Colorado Springs school closure).

These are 100% federal funds dedicated to SRTS and cannot be used for any other program. FHWA requires 10-30% of the funds to be used for educational projects. We were able to maintain this requirement this year at 15% of funding awarded to non-infrastructure (education) projects while using savings from previous non-infrastructure projects.

In addition to federal requirements, Colorado statute requires funds to be distributed based in proportion to the geographic distribution of K-8 student population. In Colorado, approximately 75% of the projects are awarded to urbanized areas (MPOs) and 25% in rural areas (TPRs). This is not a formula that provides funding for every TPR. The statute also requires that the projects be selected through a competitive process by a nine-member advisory committee which is appointed by the CDOT Executive Director.

"Taking Care To Get You There"

Details

For FY14, CDOT has \$2,458,873 to distribute. A total of 40 applications were received with representation from all five CDOT regions. Twenty-two (55 percent) were infrastructure; 18 (45% percent) were non-infrastructure; 71 percent of projects are from MPO areas and 29 percent from TPRs. Total requests equaled \$6,376,372 – exceeding the amount available by a ratio of more than 2 to 1.

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. CDOT Region engineers also screened the infrastructure applications for review on construction, budget, ROW and other issues that might prohibit execution of the project.

The Committee spends hours reading and scoring every project, and then coming 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.

The projects recommended for funding for FY 2014 total \$2,361,169. A complete list of recommended projects is attached. That will still leave a balance of approximately \$97,704 (\$79,752 for infrastructure projects and \$17,952 for non-infrastructure projects) which is not enough to fund the next highest-scored projects in each category. By the end of calendar year 2014, staff will determine how to allocate these and any additional funds from other SRTS project close-outs.

Key Benefits

Colorado is seeing an impact from SRTS. According to a national survey from participating SRTS recipients, the percentage of parents supporting walking and biking to school significantly increased from 24.9% to 33% from 2007 through 2012. In some Colorado schools, biking and walking to school has increased by more than 31% with schools in Boulder and Loveland seeing an average of 27% and 32% of students at participating schools biking and walking to school, replacing vehicle trips and reducing emissions in school zones.

A requirement of Colorado's SRTS grantees is to collect and report classroom travel tallies and parent surveys. We, and they, receive valuable information about the progress of their projects and for planning for sustainability. According to a sample of 8,000 surveys, 62% of Colorado parents believe schools are "strongly encouraging" or "encouraging" students to walk and bike to/from school, up from 45% in 2008. Parent's opinion that walking and biking to/from school is "very healthy" for their child has increased by 17% after the introduction of a SRTS program at their child's school. Parents also report a 25% increase of students living one to two miles from school asking for permission to walk or ride to school. Overall, SRTS has increased rates of children walking and biking to school in 95% of schools receiving funds.

Next Steps

- Commission approval of the FY 2014 SRTS project list selected by the SRTS Advisory Committee.
- Implementation of projects.

Attachments

- Resolution
- Projects list
- SRTS Advisory Committee members

FY14 Safe Routes to School (Awards total \$2,361,169)

Funded INFRASTRUCTURE Projects

| App # | Applicant | Project Title | Region | MPO/ TPR | Amount Awarded |
|-------|-----------------------|---|--------|-------------|-------------------|
| 4 | City of Littleton | Berry Ave/Fed Blvd Ped Safety Improvements | 1 | MPO | \$119,606 |
| 30 | City of Commerce City | East 72nd Ave Corridor Infrastructure Improvements | 1 | MPO | \$284,618 |
| 25 | City of Montrose | Northside Elementary SRTS Project | 3 | TPR | \$288,707 |
| 26 | City of Durango | Needham Elementary Connect | 5 | TPR | \$291,885 |
| 20 | City of Loveland | Garfield ES Sidewalk Improvements | 4 | MPO | \$112,533 |
| 38 | City of Sheridan | City of Sheridan's SRTS Infrastructure Improvements Project | 1 | MPO | \$174,809 |
| 29 | City of Thornton | Brantner ES Trail | 1 | MPO | \$237,475 |
| 10 | Town of Milliken | Town of Milliken State Highway 60 SRTS | 4 | MPO | \$219,200 |
| 31 | City of Boulder | Hanover Multi-Use Path project | 4 | MPO | \$270,276 |

Funded NON-INFRASTRUCTURE (Education) Projects

| | | | | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|---|---|-----|----------|
| 9 | City of Gunnison | Gunnison RE1J SD SRTS | 3 | TPR | \$22,325 |
| 40 | Montrose County School District RE-1J | SRTS After School Program | 3 | TPR | \$69,460 |
| 14 | City of Fort Collins | Fort Collins SRTS | 4 | MPO | \$25,325 |
| 37 | City/County of Denver | Denver SRTS | 1 | MPO | \$67,800 |
| 19 | City of Loveland | T-n-T Tuesdays Ed/Encouragement Prog | 4 | MPO | \$13,900 |
| 35 | Jeffco Public Schools | Jeffco SRTS | 1 | MPO | \$45,500 |
| 36 | City of Sheridan | City of Sheridan's SRTS Ed & Policy Project | 1 | MPO | \$69,545 |
| 34 | Englewood Schools | Advancing SRTS in Englewood | 1 | MPO | \$48,205 |

FY14 Safe Routes to School

Projects not funded or disqualified

| App # | Applicant | Project Title | Region | MPO/ TPR | Funding Request |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--------|-------------|--------------------|
| INFRASTRUCTURE | | | | | |
| 1 | Town of Crestone | Ped Pathway Network Proj | 5 | TPR | \$300,000.00 |
| 27 | Summit County Open Space & Trails | CR 450 SRTS | 3 | TPR | \$300,000.00 |
| 2 | Town of Kremmling | Kremmling MS Sidewalk | 3 | TPR | \$294,287.00 |
| 22 | City of Florence | AWARE Program | 2 | TPR | \$298,487.00 |
| 13 | City of Northglenn | "Mor" Safe to School | 1 | MPO | \$191,664.00 |
| 18 | City of Colo Springs | Midland Elementary School Sidewalk/Traffic Calming Improvements | 2 | MPO | \$299,795.58 |
| 16 | City of Colo Springs | Cheyenne Mountain Jr High Sidewalk/Crossing Improvement | 2 | MPO | \$297,030.81 |
| 24 | City of Bayfield | Bayfield Elementary Sidewalk Improvements | 5 | TPR | \$225,181.00 |
| 21 | Eagle County | Pavilion Park Pedestrian Path | 3 | TPR | \$235,669.50 |
| 39 | Rocky Mtn Deaf School | Rocky Mountain Deaf School "Getting to School Safe" Project | 1 | MPO | \$134,076.97 |
| 23 | Town of Mancos | Highway 160 At-Grade Pedestrian Crossing | 5 | TPR | \$136,791.00 |
| NON-INFRASTRUCTURE | | | | | |
| 32 | Boulder Valley School District | Project Crosswalk & Bike | 4 | MPO | \$92,000.00 |
| 7 | Adams CO SD 50 | District 50 Bike Program | 1 | MPO | \$22,350.00 |
| 33 | Adams-Arapahoe 28J (Aurora Public SD) | SRTS - Aurora Public SD | 1 | MPO | \$28,080.00 |
| 3 | West Metro Fire | Getting to School Safely | 1 | MPO | \$30,720.00 |
| 6 | Adams 12 Five Star | Adams 12 Five Star SRTS | 1 | MPO | \$53,000.00 |
| 28 | Grand Valley Bikes | Grand Junction SRTS Program | 3 | MPO | \$84,850.00 |
| 17 | City of Colo Springs | Signs of Life Mobile Classroom Additions | 2 | MPO | \$49,840.00 |
| 15 | Thompson School District | District Safe Routes Coordination | 4 | MPO | \$36,118.00 |
| 5 | Colo Spgs SD 11 | CSSD 11 SRTS | 2 | MPO | \$33,000.00 |
| 11 | City of Longmont | Longmont SRTS Program | 4 | MPO | \$244,834.00 |

Transportation Commission Resolution
March 20, 2014

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, 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 790 schools statewide since 2005. This is more than 90 schools per year on average and more than 300,000 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 \$15.4 million in FHWA funds from 2005 through 2013 for SRTS program grants; and

WHEREAS, \$2.458 million in SAFETEA-LU designated SRTS funds remain; 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 February 2014 to recommend to the Commission for approval:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Commission approves the Fiscal Year 2014 project list, dated March 20, 2014

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.