

Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS)

Purpose of SRTS

The purpose of the SRTS Program is to:

- *Enable and encourage children in grades K-8, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school*
- *To make walking and bicycling to school safer and more appealing*
- *To plan, develop, and implement projects that will improve highway safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools.*

Inter-Agency Involvement

- ALDOT has partnered with ASDE (State Department of Education) and ADPH (State Department of Public Health) as joint venture to administer program
- ASDE/ADPH function in non-infrastructure portion of program (health/education awareness for children and parents)

ALDOT Infrastructure Portion

- Install bicycle parking facilities
- Install street striping (crosswalks, bike lanes)
- Install signs
- Provide facilities to slow traffic
- Install or improve sidewalks
- Increase connectivity between locations
- Develop off-street bicycle and pedestrian facilities
- Improve handicapped accessibility
- Improve other facilities that may be related to the goals of this program

ADPH/ASDE

Non-Infrastructure Portion

- The agencies may implement Statewide SRTS programs related to safety education, the healthy benefits of walking/biking, etc.
- The agencies will contact each community that wins an Infrastructure award and offer education, training, etc. Such interaction will promote safe use of the facilities constructed with the Infrastructure award.
- Communities have an opportunity to request non-infrastructure projects through the application procedures. As with infrastructure project proposals, these non-infrastructure proposals will be reviewed, ranked, and awarded through standard procedures.

ADPH/ASDE Non-Infrastructure Portion (cont.)

- Convene local meetings with SRTS advocates and partners
- Assist with expediting data collection and analysis
- Provide walking and biking safety flyers, fact sheets, and brochures
- Provide training and technical assistance
- Produce awareness and promotional materials
- Conduct walking/biking demonstrations and rodeos
- Sponsor structured walking/biking safety competitions and learning experiences

The 5 E's of SRTS

Each SRTS infrastructure application or non-infrastructure request for assistance must be developed based on concepts that incorporate the 5-E's of the Safe Routes to School Program:

- *Encouragement* - uses events and contests to entice students, teachers, parents, and the community to try walking and biking.
- *Education* - teaches students and the community important safety skills and launches neighborhood safety campaigns.
- *Engineering* - focuses on creating physical improvements to the infrastructure surrounding schools, reducing speeds, and establishing safer crosswalks and pathways.
- *Enforcement* - uses law enforcement to strengthen neighborhood highway safety concerns and activities.
- *Evaluation* - measures project activities to assure that project remains on time, on target, and in demand.

SRTS Jurisdiction/Eligibility

- The *project area* for SRTS infrastructure projects *is limited to a two mile radius of an elementary or middle school*, and all infrastructure projects submitted in an application must meet this requirement.
- *Non-infrastructure projects do not have the two-mile requirement.*

All funds for both project categories must be used to improve the ability of children to walk or bicycle to school.

SRTS Jurisdiction/Eligibility (cont.)

- Can be approved for budget up to \$150,000
- May involve more than 1 school
- May involve a program for all K-8 schools in district
- Applicant must declare status as either urban (within an MPO) or non-urban/rural (outside an MPO)

SRTS Funding

- Funding for SRTS projects is 100% Federal Aid, and no matching funds are required.
- All preliminary costs associated with project development (such as engineering or plans preparation) will be borne by the applicant. Additionally, project oversight costs (CE&I) are not eligible project items.
- The SRTS program is a federal reimbursement program, meaning all Infrastructure project cost must be incurred by the applicant. Reimbursement is then requested from ALDOT.
- Using SRTS funds with other federal, state or local funds is encouraged, to maximize the benefit to the community.

SRTS Information

For further information (including the application process):

www.adph.org/srts

or contact: Mr. Bill Luckerson, ALDOT SRTS Coordinator
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Questions?