



Safe Routes to School

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Federal funding program to increase the number of children bicycling and walking to school



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Key Points

- **SAFETEA-LU funding**
- **Minimum of \$1 million per year**
- **Elementary and middle schools**
- **Both infrastructure and noninfrastructure projects**

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Program Purposes

- Enable/encourage children to walk/bicycle to school
- Make bicycling/walking more appealing = more active lifestyle
- Improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption and air pollution near schools

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Desired Outcomes

- Increased bicycle, pedestrian and traffic safety
- More children walking/ bicycling to/from school
- Decreased traffic congestion
- Improved childhood health



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Desired Outcomes (cont'd)

- Reduced childhood obesity
- Active/healthy lifestyles
- Improved air quality
- Improved community safety
- Reduced fuel consumption

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Five Program Components

- Engineering
- Education
- Enforcement
- Encouragement
- Evaluation



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Iowa's Funding Levels



- 2005 - \$1 million
- 2006 - \$1 million
- 2007 - \$1.07 million
- 2008 - \$1.32 million
- 2009 - \$1.66 million

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Funding Framework

- Based on # of students in K thru 8
- At least \$1 million each year
- Reimbursement, not cash up front
- Noninfrastructure projects: 10-30%
- Funding available until spent
- No local match required or permitted

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State Programs

- Administered by state DOTs
- Full-time coordinator required
- Advisory committee recommended



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Four Objectives

- Participation at many levels
- Accessible to diverse participants
- Projects and activities should include 5 Es
- Maximize impact of funds

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Eligible Recipients

- **State, local or regional agencies**
- **Nonprofit organizations**
- **Schools or community-based groups**
 - **Individual schools or cluster of schools**
 - **School district, multi-district, city, county or regional**
 - **Statewide activities**

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Project Selection Criteria

- **Demonstrated needs**
- **Identify safety hazards**
- **Reduce child injuries and fatalities**
- **Create safer walking/biking built environment within 2 miles of school**
- **Encourage walking/biking**

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Project Selection Criteria (Cont'd)

- Identify safe walking/biking routes
- Number of students currently using routes
- Number of students anticipated to use routes
- Community support for application

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Eligible Infrastructure Projects

- Sidewalk improvements
- Traffic calming/speed reduction
- Pedestrian/bicycle crossings
- On-street bicycle facilities
- Off-street bike/ped facilities
- Secure bicycle parking facilities
- Traffic diversion improvements



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Eligible Noninfrastructure Projects

- Public awareness campaigns
- Traffic education and enforcement
- Sessions on bike/pedestrian safety, health and environment
- Funding for training, volunteers, and managers of SRTS programs



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Ineligible Uses of Funding

- Reoccurring costs
- Improvements primarily for drivers
- Bus safety education
- Bus stop improvements



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Program Evaluation

- Safety Benefits
- Behavioral Changes
- Other potential benefits
 - Partnerships created
 - Students reached
 - Improvements in health, congestion, etc.
 - New facilities, miles of sidewalks, etc.



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Status of Iowa SRTS

- Organizing advisory committee
- Developing application process
- Web conference with FHWA and state SRTS coordinators
- SRTS session at National Bike Summit in March

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For more information

<http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/saferoutes>

Kathy Ridnour

Safe Routes to School Coordinator

kathy.ridnour@dot.iowa.gov

515-239-1713