



COLORADO Department of Transportation

Division of Transportation Development
Multimodal Planning Branch
4201 E. Arkansas Ave, Shumate Bldg.
Denver, CO 80222

DATE: March 15, 2017
TO: Transportation Commission
FROM: Debra Perkins-Smith, Director, Division of Transportation Development
SUBJECT: Safe Routes to School (SRTS) FY 2017 Projects

Purpose

This memo summarizes information about the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) projects recommended for funding for FY 2017.

Action Requested

Review of recommended SRTS projects for FY 2017 as selected by the SRTS Advisory Committee established in state statute, with approval to follow in April.

Background

Established in 2005 by the federal Safe Accountable Flexible Efficient Transportation Equity Act - A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), CDOT's SRTS program has distributed \$20.7 million state and federal funds. The program's purpose is to enable and encourage more children K-8 to walk and bike to school through both infrastructure improvements and education.

While the program is still recognized and encouraged by the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA), the designated funding allocation to SRTS was eliminated with the passage of MAP-21. In September 2015, the Transportation Commission expressed its commitment to the program by passing a resolution (see Attachment A) that approved annual funding for the program with \$2 million for infrastructure projects and \$0.5 million for non-infrastructure projects, beginning in FY 2016.

Details

For FY 2017, total requests equaled \$3,944,888 - exceeding the amount available by \$1,444,888. A total of 22 qualified applications were received. Seventeen applications were from MPO areas and five from rural TPRs. For the first time in the history of SRTS, there were fewer non-infrastructure project requests than the \$0.5 million funds available - leaving a balance of \$219,292. Projects came from all five CDOT regions.

The applications were reviewed and scored by the SRTS Advisory Committee (see Attachment B), which, by statute, consists of representatives of MPOs, TPRs, educators, pedestrians, bicyclists, law enforcement, and parents (See Attachment C). 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.

For FY 2017, the SRTS Advisory Committee recommends funding six non-infrastructure and eight infrastructure projects. Attachment C identifies the projects submitted, with the 14 recommended projects highlighted.

Highlights of projects that are being recommended for funding include:

- 198 schools will benefit from these projects; 59% have greater than 50% free- and reduced-lunch eligible student populations
- Seven are first-time recipients of a SRTS grant
- Examples of infrastructure projects include:
 - Constructing four improved intersections with bulb outs and signage to reduce speed within school zones by an urban school
 - Connecting three neighborhoods to an elementary school where sidewalks and bicycle infrastructure does not exist
 - Constructing a ten-foot wide multi-use path at an elementary school that currently discourages walking and biking to school because of lack of infrastructure



- Constructing two crosswalks and adding a pedestrian median refuge near a state highway in a rural mountain community
- Examples of non-infrastructure projects include:
 - Connecting a city's Toward Vision Zero initiative with safety education in elementary schools
 - Providing pedestrian and bicycle safety education and encouragement to students
 - Developing, in a partnership between a school district and county health department, a district-wide campaign to encourage active transportation to and from school
 - Engaging parents in activities that promote walking and bicycling to school

Staff requests direction from the Transportation Commission, leading to formal approval of FY 2017 SRTS projects in April. Specifically, staff requests Transportation Commission direction on how to address the balance of funds resulting from more limited non-infrastructure project requests this year. Options to consider include:

1. Approve applying the remaining \$219,292 non-infrastructure funds to this year's infrastructure project list, and approve the projects as put forth by the Advisory Committee? If approved by the TC, the additional \$219,291 from non-infrastructure projects will be added to infrastructure projects. The City of Loveland will be contacted to verify that project is scalable to adjusted \$298,850 award and they are willing to accept partial award. If not, the next project for which funds are sufficient will be awarded.
2. Approve the non-infrastructure projects and the infrastructure projects up to \$2 million as put forth by the Advisory Committee, and conduct a second call for the remaining \$219,992 non-infrastructure funds?
3. Approve the non-infrastructure projects and the infrastructure projects up to \$2 million as put forth by the Advisory Committee, and roll the remaining \$219,292 non-infrastructure funds into FY 2018 SRTS non-infrastructure projects?
4. Approve the non-infrastructure projects and the infrastructure projects up to \$2 million as put forth by the Advisory Committee, and return the remaining \$219,292 non-infrastructure funds? CDOT would not spend the unallocated funds and they would also not roll forward to next year.
5. Modify the 2015 Transportation Commission Resolution providing annual funding to allow flexibility between infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects for the current and future year project selection, and approve the projects as put forth by the Advisory Committee?

CDOT Staff and the SRTS Advisory Committee believe in the value of non-infrastructure projects and the importance of ensuring non-infrastructure projects continue to be emphasized alongside infrastructure, but also feels that funding dedicated each year should be spent within the year of allocation. The SRTS Advisory Committee and CDOT staff recommend the first option as there are more worthy infrastructure projects than we have funding for and we would like to put the money to work as soon as possible. We request an exception to the resolution for this year. For the FY 2018 call for projects CDOT staff and the Advisory Committee will undertake efforts to increase awareness of the availability of non-infrastructure funding. If next year's applications again show a shortage of non-infrastructure projects, then modification of the Transportation Commission resolution can be reconsidered.

Key Benefits:

Colorado continues to see a positive impact from SRTS. According to a National Center for Safe Routes to School report, Colorado's parents are 50% more likely than parents nationwide to say that walking and bicycling to school is "healthy" or "very healthy" and "fun" or "very fun" for their children. Since parents are the ultimate decision-makers, these results indicate a positive 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.

Colorado communities continue to create innovative programs to encourage and enable more children to walk and bike to and from school. As an example, the City of Fort Collins has leveraged CDOT-SRTS funds to require every elementary student to receive bicycle and pedestrian education on a three-year rotation. Additionally, sixth graders are annually receiving bicycle education every year. The city now has local dedicated funds that are supporting the SRTS program.

Next Steps:

- Transportation Commission approval of FY 2017 SRTS projects
- Announce approved projects in April, 2017
- Implement projects



Attachments

- Attachment A: 2015 TC Resolution
- Attachment B: 2016-17 SRTS Advisory Committee members
- Attachment C: FY 2017 SRTS Projects List



Attachment A

Resolution # TC-15-9-8

Funding for Safe Routes to School

Approved by the Transportation Commission on Sept. 17, 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 funds to eligible projects that enable and encourage children K-8 to bicycle and walk to school; and

WHEREAS, since 2005, Colorado has been a national leader in SRTS; funding programs that have reached more than 790 schools and more than 300,000 students statewide; and

WHEREAS, a study of Colorado schools found SRTS programs or projects increased the number of students walking and biking to school from 21% to 25%; and

WHEREAS, schools with SRTS programs have also demonstrated a drop in the number of children arriving at school by car from 49% to 45% as compared to an increase nationally from 51% to 55%; and

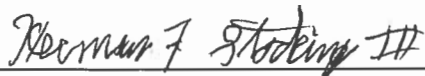
WHEREAS, successful SRTS programs are designed around the 5 Es of engineering, education, encouragement, enforcement, and evaluation; and

WHEREAS, SRTS has been a strong component of CDOT's commitment to multi-modal transportation; and

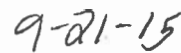
WHEREAS, SRTS equitably supports the diverse transportation needs of Colorado youth at all abilities, income levels, races and national origins.

WHEREAS, SRTS contributes to Colorado's quality of life through healthier lifestyles, expanded commuting options, and easier access to schools and neighborhoods; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Transportation Commission approves the continuation of the SRTS program by committing to fund the program with \$2 million for infrastructure projects and \$0.5 million for non-infrastructure projects annually, beginning in FY 2016.



Herman Stockinger, Secretary
Transportation Commission of Colorado



Date

Attachment B
2016-17 SRTS Advisory Committee Reviewing & Recommending FY 2017 Projects

FirstName	LastName	Representing	Agency
Currently	Vacant	MPO	
Becky	Karasko	MPO - North Front Range	Regional Transportation Planner, North Front Range MPO (NFRMPO)
Marilyn	Russell	TPR - South Central	La Veta Town Board of Trustees President, La Veta Trails
Tom	Jankovsky	TPR - Intermountain	County Commissioner Garfield County
Julie	George	Pedestrian Representative	Director, HEAL Cities & Towns Campaign LiveWell Colorado
Bevin	Barber-Campbell	Parent Representative	Parent, Ouray, CO
Deputy Sam	Sala	Law Enforcement	Deputy Sheriff, Arapahoe County Sheriff's Department
Sarah	Harter	Educator Representative	School Wellness Coordinator St. Vrain Valley Schools & LiveWell Longmont
Cate	Townley	Bicyclist Representative	Built Environment Specialist, Colorado Dept of Public Health & Environ.

Attachment C
Safe Routes to School FY 2017 Recommended Projects
as Put Forth by SRTS Advisory Committee on 2/10/2017

INFRASTRUCTURE - Total Funding Available - \$2M

Applicant	Project Title	Total Project Cost	Funded?	Amount of CDOT Funding	Cash March (20%)	Running Total - \$2M	Region	MPO/TPR	Infra or Non-Infra	Total Score	RANK	
City of Lafayette	Sanchez ES/Peak to Peak ES Connector Trail Project	\$ 372,910	Y	\$ 298,328	\$ 74,582	\$ 1,701,672	4	MPO	I	89.000	1	Recommended for Funding
City & County of Denver - Public Works - Trans. & Mobility	DPS-Cole Arts & Science Academy Multimodal Improvements	\$ 437,500	Y	\$ 350,000	\$ 87,500	\$ 1,351,672	1	MPO	I	86.875	2	
Jefferson County Government	Fairmount ES & Cornerstone Montessori School Ped & Bicycle Safety Improvements	\$ 331,316	Y	\$ 265,053	\$ 66,263	\$ 1,086,619	1	MPO	I	85.500	3	
City of Canon City	Canon City Lincoln School Partnership	\$ 363,200	Y	\$ 290,560	\$ 72,640	\$ 796,059	2	TPR	I	85.375	4	
Town of Fraser	Fraser SRTS US Hwy 40 Safety Improvements Infrastructure Project	\$ 437,500	Y	\$ 350,000	\$ 87,500	\$ 446,059	3	TPR	I	83.875	5	
Town of Frederick	Thunder Valley K-8 Multipurpose Trail Project	\$ 379,375	Y	\$ 303,500	\$ 75,875	\$ 142,559	4	MPO	I	81.500	6	
City of Durango	Signage for Safe School Zones	\$ 78,750	Y	\$ 63,000	\$ 15,750	\$ 79,559	5	TPR	I	81.375	7	
City of Loveland ¹	West 4th Street Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Improvements	\$ 437,500	?	\$ 350,000	\$ 87,500	\$ (270,441)	4	MPO	I	78.875	8	?
City of Woodland Park	Gateway Sidewalk Improvements	\$ 300,072	N	\$ 240,058	\$ 60,014	\$ (510,498)	2	MPO	I	78.375	9	Not Funded
City of Thornton	Westgate Community School Sidewalks	\$ 391,972	N	\$ 313,578	\$ 78,394	\$ (824,076)	1	MPO	I	74.250	10	
Pueblo West Metropolitan District	Swallows Charter Academy Trail Connection	\$ 249,700	N	\$ 199,760	\$ 49,940	\$ (1,023,836)	2	MPO	I	71.625	11	
City of Glenwood Springs	Glenwood Springs Intersection Improvements	\$ 67,805	N	\$ 54,244	\$ 13,561	\$ (1,078,080)	3	TPR	I	63.625	12	
City of Arvada	Alkire Street Sidewalk Project	\$ 371,288	N	\$ 297,030	\$ 74,258	\$ (1,375,110)	1	MPO	I	60.500	13	
Town of Larkspur	A Safe Route from Larkspur ES to Larkspur Community Park	\$ 221,055	N	\$ 176,844	\$ 44,211	\$ (1,551,954)	1	MPO	I	51.375	14	
TOTAL RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING (1 - 8)¹						\$ 2,129,291						

¹ If approved by the TC, the additional \$219,291 from Non-Infrastructure projects will be added to infrastructure projects. City of Loveland will be contacted to verify that project is scalable to adjusted \$298,850 award and they are willing to accept partial award. If not, the next project for which funds are sufficient will be awarded.

NON-INFRASTRUCTURE - Total Funding Available - \$500K

Applicant	Project Title	Total Project Cost	Funded?	Amount of CDOT Funding	Cash March (20%)	Running Total - \$500,000	Region	MPO/TPR	Infra or Non-Infra	Total Score	RANK	
Boulder County Transportation	Trip Tracker Trends	\$ 87,204	Y	\$ 69,763	\$ 17,441	\$ 430,237	4	MPO	NI	87.857	1	Recommended for Funding
Jefferson County Public Health	Healthy Jeffco SRTS	\$ 72,569	Y	\$ 58,055	\$ 14,514	\$ 372,182	1	MPO	NI	82.500	2	
City of Boulder	Safe Schools Boulder	\$ 42,200	Y	\$ 33,760	\$ 8,440	\$ 338,422	4	MPO	NI	82.250	3	
Steamboat Springs School District	Steamboat Springs SRTS	\$ 12,500	Y	\$ 10,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 328,422	3	TPR	NI	81.875	4	
Cherry Creek School District #5	CCSD SRTS through Educaion, Encouragement, & Engagement	\$ 36,414	Y	\$ 29,131	\$ 7,283	\$ 299,290	1	MPO	NI	78.875	5	
Denver Public Schools	CommuteDPS Communications Campaign	\$ 99,999	Y	\$ 79,999	\$ 20,000	\$ 219,291	1	MPO	NI	71.125	6	
Global Village Academy - Aurora	GVA Safe Walking & Biking Education	\$ 10,895	N									Not Funded
City of Fort Collins	Phase II of Camps/Clubs/Field Trips and Expansion of Middle-School Bike PE	\$ 45,580	DQ									
TOTAL RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING (1 - 6)						\$ 280,708						