

# Fiscal Year 2021 Top-Scoring Colorado Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Application

## Application Overview

**Application Name:** APP-000412, Center Safe Routes to School Project

**Owner:** Brian Lujan

**Type:** Infrastructure Application

**Project Summary:** The Town of Center, in collaboration with the Center School District, would like to increase the safety for walking and biking to school. The planned project includes two sidewalks running directly through town to the school. In addition, a crossing light is planned across Highway 112 south of the school.

**CDOT Region:** 5

**Regional Program Manager:** Robert Shanks, [robert.shanks@state.co.us](mailto:robert.shanks@state.co.us), 970.385.1416

**Congressional District:** D3

**Application School District:** Center 26 JT

**School District Enrollment:** 579

**School District Name:** Center 26 JT

**School Name(s):** Skoglund Middle School, Haskin Elementary School

**Goals:** Promote walking and biking to school by addressing safety concerns of the Community through sidewalks and a light at the town's major intersection and through educational efforts. The Safe Routes to School Coalition is working toward having the majority of students who live within a 1.5 mile radius of the school walking or biking to school.

## Section 1: Problem Identification

### Section 1 Question A

The school district includes the pre-school, elementary, middle school, alternative school and high school on one site and is fairly centrally located in the town.

Considering the convenient location and the small land area of the town, it would make sense for students to walk or bike to school. While we have made statistically significant progress increasing from 5% walking in 2016, we are not yet where we want to be. In the fall 2020 Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Student Tally Report, 84% of students reported riding in a family vehicle to school, 16% walk, nobody biked. This year, we are not bussing in town for the warm months, but unfortunately this didn't seem to translate to more students walking/biking, but more riding with parents. Due to COVID19, we did not survey in May of 2020; but in May 2019, 37% of students rode in a family vehicle to school, 18% walk, and 1% bike. One particular challenge that students and parents face are sidewalks. Many are damaged or nonexistent and even few have gutters/curbs or are ADA compliant. On the fall 2019 SRTS parent survey, 33% of parents indicated

sidewalks as a concern. Parents also indicated the amount (34%) and speed (68%) of traffic as well as intersection safety (67%) as concerns. There is a large apartment complex that many families live in on one side of our busiest intersections with no light. Working with our SRTS coalition, we now have a police officer there for morning crossing, but this is not a long-term solution.

### **Section 1 Question B**

Both parents of students who do walk and who don't walk cite speed and congestion as issues. On the fall 2019 Parent Survey, 50% reported traffic along the route as a reason they did not let their child walk/bike to school. With no sidewalks and a busy intersection, this makes sense. The Center Police Department reports that they have written 694 speeding citations in the town of Center from January to October 2020. This is a significant number given that the town population is only 2,200. In addition, 25% of parents of children who do not walk/bike to school cite violence and crime as a concern. The Police Chief reports 215 criminal arrests in town in the past year as well. Finally, 9.9% of students in grades 2-5 report being bullied on their way to and from school on the SPARK climate survey from spring 2020, but this is down from 18.24% in the spring of 2018, which we believe is partly in response to crossing guards.

### **Section 1 Extra Credit Yes**

## **Section 2 Project Description**

### **Section 2 Question A**

We would like to address safety concerns of our community through two strategies—providing sidewalks for travel and putting in a crosswalk at the intersection of Broadway (the school road) and Colorado State Highway 112. We will provide sidewalks, curbs, and gutters 5th and 6th streets that run directly east/west in front of the school from Broadway to Worth Street, the town main street. These are the most walked streets to/from school. The sidewalks on these streets are either nonexistent to only fair to poor condition. Students often walk or bike directly on the road, and morning sun positions can make visibility poor. Weather conditions also make this dangerous when snow/ice are on the road. The second safety concern we would like to address is a light on Highway 112. Students walk from an apartment complex next to a busy road and then cross the highway. This highway is traveled not only by local traffic but by farm and semi-truck traffic as well as outside traffic. It is an especially dangerous crossing in the mornings or later in the afternoons when the sun can be in drivers' eyes. Thus, we propose a LumiCrossWalk, or crossing lights affixed to a depression in the road surface activated by a button on side poles. The light will withstand cold weather and snowplows, and allow for visibility when the sun is in a position that might prevent a driver from seeing an overhead light. Then, we will use our SRTS Coalition to promote the benefits of walking and biking.

**Current School Activities** Walking/biking safety curriculum taught in the school; Walk and/or Bike to School Day events; Other weekly or monthly encouragement programs; Adult Crossing Guard program; Infrastructure projects already completed

### **Section 2 Question B NO**

## **Section 2 Question D1 Yes**

## **Section 2 Question E Yes**

## **Section 2 Question F**

The town is engaged in multiple infrastructure projects that include upgrading our electrical system to underground with fiber optics, installation of over 550 water meters and a street paving project that will end with the entire town having paved roads. Sidewalks will coincide with other improvements to move us into the future with a stable infrastructure system. Furthermore, the town is currently engaged with Downtown Colorado Inc. and is working on developing the downtown region and making the town more desirable for outside traffic. The sidewalks on 4th, 5th, and 6th Streets will connect the Downtown Revitalization and Beatification Project. The light will slow traffic addressing safety concerns regarding traffic speed. The sidewalks allow for increased walking in the community; thus, increasing visibility of the citizens walking to and from school. The safer path allows for better visibility of children who are walking, addressing violence and crime, also a priority of the town.

## **Section 2 Question G Yes**

## **Section 2 Question H No**

## **Section 2 Question I Yes**

## **Section 2 Question J**

For several years now, we have been collaborating with the school, crossing guards, community members and families, county government, town police department, and the local youth club as part of the Center Safe Routes to School Coalition. Through this collaboration, we will promote walking and biking to school. This will start with advertising about what we are doing through our town utility bill mailing, the town Facebook pages, and the local newspaper. When the project is completed, we will host a community celebration in which we will have youth, families, school personnel, community members, etc., start with a walk from school to downtown. In town, we can end with a community dinner and fun games and events. We will use our coalition to plan and host the event. Then, we will continue to participate in the crossing guard and bike and pedestrian safety events hosted by the coalition. This includes walking/biking school days, bike rodeos, and safety events at the Club. In addition, we will continue with a monthly newsletter sent to town residents in the utility bill promoting walking and biking to school as well as safety concepts. We will also post to Facebook pages as well.

**Education/Encouragement Components** Bike to School Day; Walk to School Day; Bike Rodeos training; Bike Rodeos equipment and supplies; Walking School Bus program; Communication awareness campaign; SRTS Coalition or Task Force

**School Alternative Evaluation Plan:** No

## Section 3 Action Plan and Evaluation

### Section 3 Question A

We will collaborate with the school district through our SRTS coalition to utilize student tallies and parent surveys to measure our growth. We will administer baseline surveys in May of 2020, and then use this baseline data to measure growth. This will tell us not only how many students are walking and biking to school, but also will inform us about concerns parents have about walking and biking to school. We will be able to identify if safety is still a concern, including concerns about speed, congestion, intersection crossings, and sidewalks. Our goal is to increase the percentage of youth who walk and bike to school by at least 25% and to reduce safety concerns related to sidewalks and intersections by at least 20%. Our SRTS coalition will review this data at the end of year 1 and also at the end of year 2. Year 1 data will be used to monitor progress and make changes as needed. It will allow us to also know how we need to direct our education campaigns. Year 2 data will be used to measure impact of the project. Given that we would like to continue to build sidewalks after this project is completed, this data will inform ongoing work toward this goal.

### Section 3 Question B

We intend to continue to seek funds in coming rounds for sidewalks. The Center SRTS Coalition leads this ongoing effort. This coalition is led by and includes school personnel, including the SRTS grant coordinator and facilitator, crossing guard volunteers, school principals, district superintendent, district nurses, health and wellness staff, and out of school time personnel. The SRTS coalition also includes the police chief, town manager, town clerk, Saguache County town clerk and a commissioner, and a Rio Grande County commissioner. The coalition meets monthly and oversees this work. This work is also written into the district Wellness Policy, ensuring that the efforts will be ongoing. As a town, we commit to continue to actively participate in the coalition and to support these efforts. In addition, the coalition is supported by Saguache County through the Sales Tax grant. These funds support the coalition, ongoing promotion of walking/biking, and the Crossing Guard program.

### Section 3 Question C

We will work with our SRTS coalition to share the successes of this project with the broader community. We will share the progress and successes through a monthly mailing in our utility mailing, the school district monthly newsletter, at the monthly town board meetings, a newspaper article, and through the town Facebook page. In addition, when the sidewalks and lights are completed, we will host a community celebration promoting walking and biking. The SRTS coalition will help with this event as well.

### Section 3 Question D

Center suffers from high rates of poverty, and the school district free/reduced lunch rate is 90%. The community has been significantly impacted by COVID19 with early high infection rates. Much of the community infrastructure is in disrepair. The town is working to address these but has limited resources. This project will bolster this work and promote community engagement and interest in town beautification. In addition, obesity rates are high. School district nurse data indicate 35% of elementary, 50% middle, and 51% of high school students are overweight or obese. Promoting walking and biking to/from school increases physical activity and the sidewalks will provide an avenue to do

so. In addition, walking and biking before school helps address academic achievement through brain activation by movement. Overall, students in the district are below the state average on standardized tests; thus, these efforts connect to the educational achievement goals of the school district as well.

## Section 4 Project Partners

### **Ssafe Routes to School Coalition or similar in Community? Yes**

**Coalition Name:** Center Safe Routes to School Coalition

**Coalition Partner:** Center Consolidated Schools, 26JT

The school district supports the ongoing efforts of the SRTS Coalition. They provide a coordinator who oversees the overall program and a facilitator for the coalition. The school has helped to bring in funds to kick-start the program, including a sidewalk and bridge to the light. The coordinator is also overseeing the grant application, including securing quotes and maps and writing narratives. They have helped generate community support for the project as well. The school will continue to support the coalition and will provide the support for the education component to the grant. They also oversee the crossing guard program as well.

**Coalition Partner:** Saguache County

Saguache County government participates in the Center SRTS Coalition and has provided funds to kick-start the project, including paying for a sidewalk and bridge to the light as well as the concept map for the project. Going forward, they will continue to provide consultation to the project and will help promote walking and biking.

**Coalition Partner** Rio Grande County

Rio Grande County participates in the Center SRTS Coalition. They own the land north of Hwy 112. Gene Glover, a Rio Grande County commissioner, comes every month to our meetings and has been a strong advocate for the work.

## Section 5 Budget Proposal

**Total Project Cost:** \$750,000.00

**Total CSRTS Project Cost:** \$750,000.00

**Requested CSRTS 80% of Total CSRTS:** \$600,000.00

**Cash Match (20% Total CSRTS Project):** \$150,000.00

**Overmatch additional:** \$125,000.00

## Budget Items

**BI-000756**

**Type :** Project Design

**Budget Item Description:** Professional Engineering Design Services

**Budget Justification:** This is required per CDOT requirements to move forward in this project.

**Cash Match (20% of Total Project Cost):** \$150,000.00

**Quantity:** 1

**Total:** \$100,000.00

**BI-000757**

**Type:** Project Construction

**Budget Item Description:** Crosswalk with Pushbuttons and Flashing Lights

**Budget Justification:** This covers the cost of the light and installation at the corner fo Colorado State Highway 112 and Broadway, addressing crossing safety concern

**Cash Match (20% of Total Project Cost):** \$150,000.00

**Quantity:** 1

**Total** \$44,920.00

**BI-000758**

**Type:** Project Construction

**Budget Item Description:** Sidewalk 5<sup>th</sup> Street (both sides)

**Budget Justification:** This is this sidewalk construction cost on 5<sup>th</sup> street which allows for safe student access to the school from the east side.

**Cash Match (20% of Total Project Cost):** \$150,000.00

**Quantity:** 1,350

**Total:** \$88,400.00

**BI-000759**

**Type** Project Construction

**Budget Item Description** Curbs, gutters 5<sup>th</sup> Street (both sides)

**Budget Justification** This is the cost for curbs and gutters required for construction of the sidewalk on 5<sup>th</sup> street which allows for safe student access to the school from the east side.

**Cash Match (20% of Total Project Cost):** \$150,000.00

**Quantity:** 2,040

**Total:** \$71,400.00

**BI-000760**

**Type:** Project Construction

**Budget Item Description:** Sidewalk on 6<sup>th</sup> Street (both sides)

**Budget Justification** This is the sidewalk construction cost on 6<sup>th</sup> street which allows for safe student access to the school from the east side.

**Cash Match (20% of Total Project Cost):** \$150,000.00

**Quantity:** 907

**Total:** \$58,955.00

**BI-000761**

**Type:** Project Construction

**Budget Item Description:** Curbs, gutters on 6<sup>th</sup> Street (both sides)

**Budget Justification:** This is the cost for curbs and gutters required for construction on the sidewalk of 5<sup>th</sup> street which allows for safe student access to the school from the east side.

**Cash Match (20% of Total Project Cost):** \$150,000.00

**Quantity:** 1,360

**Total:** \$47,600.00

#### **BI-000762**

**Type:** Project Construction

**Budget Item Description:** Road Base

**Budget Justification:** This is the cost of the base required for the sidewalk construction.

**Cash Match (20% of Total Project Cost):** \$150,000.00

**Quantity:** 252

**Total:** \$10,080.00

#### **BI-000763**

**Type:** Project Construction

**Budget Item Description:** Excavation

**Budget Justification:** Required for construction of the sidewalks.

**Cash Match (20% of Total Project Cost):** \$150,000.00

**Quantity:** 504

**Total:** \$12,600.00

#### **BI-000764**

**Type:** Project Construction

**Budget Item Description:** Asphalt Patching (between existing asphalt & C & G)

**Budget Justification:** Required for seamless construction of curbs and gutters.

**Cash Match (20% of Total Project Cost):** \$150,000.00

**Quantity:** 1,511

**Total:** \$75,550.00

#### **BI-000765**

**Type:** Project Construction

**Budget Item Description:** Curb Ramps (one on each street corner)

**Budget Justification:** These are required to be ADA compliant.

**Cash Match (20% of Total Project Cost):** \$150,000.00

**Quantity:** 16

**Total:** \$64,000.00

#### **BI-000766**

**Type:** Project Construction

**Budget Item Description:** Stormwater Management

**Budget Justification:** Required to ensure stormwater is properly taken care of with the sidewalks.

**Cash Match (20% of Total Project Cost):** \$150,000.00

**Quantity:** 1

**Total:** \$15,000.00

**BI-000767**

**Type:** Project Construction

**Budget Item Description:** Traffic Control

**Budget Justification:** Provides resources for traffic control during the construction phase.

**Cash Match (20% of Total Project Cost):** \$150,000.00

**Quantity:** 1

**Total:** \$20,000.00

**BI-000768**

**Type:** Project Construction

**Budget Item Description:** Mobilization

**Budget Justification:** Required for CDOT to ensure we can get the project started.

**Cash Match (20% of Total Project Cost):** \$150,000.00

**Quantity:** 1

**Total:** \$50,000.00

**BI-000769**

**Type:** Project Construction

**Budget Item Description:** Construction Surveying

**Budget Justification** Required to ensure boundary lines and shape and contour of the land.

**Cash Match (20% of Total Project Cost):** \$150,000.00

**Quantity:** 1

**Total:** \$15,000.00

**BI-000770**

**Type:** Project Construction

**Budget Item Description:** Environmental Health & Safety Management Plan

**Budget Justification:** Ensures we are compliant with CDOT environmental rules.

**Cash Match (20% of Total Project Cost):** \$150,000.00

**Quantity:** 1

**Total:** \$3,000.00

**BI-000771**

**Type:** Project Construction

**Budget Item Description:** Construction Management Services (Professional Engineer)

**Budget Justification:** Will ensure CDOT rule compliance with the project.

**Cash Match (20% of Total Project Cost):** \$150,000.00

**Quantity:** 1

**Total:** \$50,000.00

**BI-000772**

**Type:** Project Construction

**Budget Item Description:** Materials Testing Services

**Budget Justification:** Ensures compliance with CDOT rules.



**Cash Match (20% of Total Project Cost):** \$150,000.00

**Quantity:** 1

**Total:** \$20,000.00

**BI-000774**

**Type:** Required Education & Encouragement

**Budget Item Description:** Monthly mailings in the utility bill promoting the project and the benefits of walking and biking as well as events (\$.15 \*800 pieces @ 24 months)

**Budget Justification:** This will cover the costs for a monthly mailing, including copies, to be included in the town utility bill. This helps increase communications about the project and increase support for the work.

**Cash Match (20% of Total Project Cost):** \$150,000.00

**Quantity:** 24

**Total:** \$2,880.00

**BI-000775**

**Type:** Required Education & Encouragement

**Budget Item Description:** Supplies for Town Celebration event (poster board, copies, paper products for potluck) (50 people @ \$3 each)

**Budget Justification:** This will cover the costs for our culminating event focused on celebrating the completion of the project and also promoting walking and biking to school.

**Cash Match (20% of Total Project Cost):** \$150,000.00

**Quantity:** 50

**Total:** \$150.00

**BI-000776**

**Type:** Required Education & Encouragement

**Budget Item Description:** SRTS Vinyl Banners to hang in town (3 banners @ \$75 each)

**Budget Justification:** These funds will purchase SRTS banners to be hung in town to promote walking/biking to school.

**Cash Match (20% of Total Project Cost):** \$150,000.00

**Quantity:** 3

**Total:** \$225.00

**BI-000777**

**Type:** Required Education & Encouragement

**Budget Item Description:** SRTS Walking Maps (3 maps @ \$80 each)

**Budget Justification:** These funds will purchase SRTS maps to demonstrate the paths to walk/bike to school.

**Cash Match (20% of Total Project Cost):** \$150,000.00

**Quantity:** 3

**Total:** \$240.00

## Section 6 Previous Colorado Safe Routes to School Grants

**Section 6 Question 2** Yes: 2016, Non-infrastructure, \$63,164.00

## Section 7 Subcontractors

**Subcontractor Name** Not known at this time (Sidewalks)  
**Previous Funded Project?** No

