



School Routes Becoming Safer Thanks to \$3 Million in Grants FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Oklahoma Transportation Commission approved over \$3 million in individual grants to local communities as part of the second round of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School grant application program on Monday. The SRTS program provides federal grant funding to state, local, tribal and regional agencies and nonprofits to support a wide variety of programs and projects, from building safer street crossings to establishing programs which encourage children and their parents to walk and bicycle to school safely.

Projects in the following cities were granted funding: Blanchard, Broken Arrow, Canton, Chickasha, Coweta, Elgin, Enid, Guthrie, Hobart, Inola, Norman, Piedmont, Stillwater, Tishomingo, Tulsa and Tuttle.

The individual projects include infrastructure upgrades such as adding sidewalks and installing safe street crossings and non-infrastructure projects establishing educational programs that encourage children and their parents to safely walk and bicycle to school.

Monday's announcement marked the completion of the second application cycle for the federally-funded program. The next SRTS grant application period is anticipated to begin January 2010 and last through the spring, with approximately \$3 million in federal funding again available for Oklahoma projects.

The overall purpose of the SRTS Program is to make biking and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age.

Through the program, individual grants are distributed to state, local and regional agencies, including nonprofits that meet requirements. Projects can be for single or multiple schools in a region. Based on the federal guidelines, each state administers its own program and solicits and selects its own projects for funding.

The \$612 million federal SRTS Program, approved by Congress in 2005, provides all the states and the District of Columbia funding to support education and enforcement programs and help communities improve or build infrastructure such as sidewalks and bike paths.

Schools and volunteer groups needing more information on the SRTS Program, contact SRTS Program Director Ernestine Mbroh at embroh@odot.org or 405-522-3570 or visit www.okladot.state.ok.us/srts

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(Editors and News Directors: FOR MEDIA INQUIRIES about the SRTS Program, please contact ODOT Media and Public Relations Division at 405-521-6000.)

INFORMATION RELEASE

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