



Safe Routes to School Program Makes Millions in Grants Available

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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With over \$3 million in funding available to Oklahoma communities, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School Program is announcing the start of its application period Wednesday. This is the third round of grant applications since the program began in 2005.

The Safe Routes to School Program aims to facilitate the planning, development and implementation of engineering projects and educational programs that will improve safety, reduce traffic, fuel consumption and air pollution near primary and middle schools. The program provides federal grant funding to state, local, tribal, 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 safely to school.

The first phase of the SRTS grant application process includes the submittal of a travel plan, which is a needs assessment document outlining a school community's intentions for the available funding and for making active transportation to and from school more sustainable and safer for students and the community. These completed travel plans must be sent to ODOT by May 26, 2011 to be eligible for available funds. The travel plan will then be reviewed and direction given, allowing the applicants to move forward with the next step in the process, submitting a funding proposal for specific projects.

Through the program individual grants are distributed to school districts, individual schools as well as state, local and regional agencies and non-profit organizations which meet requirements. Projects can be for single, multiple or regional schools. Based on the federal guidelines, each state administers its own program and solicits and selects its own projects for funding.

The overall purpose of the SRTS Program is to enable and encourage children to walk and bike to school and 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.

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 infrastructure such as building sidewalks and bike paths.

For more information on the SRTS Program and the application process 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, contact the ODOT Media and Public Relations office at 405-521-6000.)

INFORMATION RELEASE

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