

NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

George N. Campbell, Commissioner

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SECOND ROUND OF SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL FUNDING
MORE THAN TWO DOZEN COMMUNITIES SEEKING CLOSE TO \$1.5 MILLION

Communities across New Hampshire have applied for nearly \$1.5 million in funds to enable and encourage elementary school children to safely walk and ride bicycles to school. A total of 26 cities and towns are seeking federal reimbursement funding to improve conditions at 46 schools serving children in kindergarten through the 8th grade. This funding is available under the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program administered by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration.

“With gasoline approaching four dollars a gallon, it no longer makes sense for parents to spend time idling in backed-up traffic to drop their kids off at school,” says John Corrigan, state coordinator for the SRTS program. “Making it possible for children to safely get to school under their own power should help reduce the epidemic of overweight children while improving air quality.”

About half of the communities have applied for startup funding to begin the comprehensive community effort that involves careful planning, efforts to teach and encourage safe walking and cycling practices, law enforcement, and the construction of sidewalks and bicycle facilities.

A two-step review process is conducted by the Regional Planning Commissions followed by a Statewide Advisory Committee that includes planners, organizations committed to non-motorized transportation, and government agencies. The NHDOT expects to announce Round 2 awards by late summer 2008.

For more information, visit: www.nh.gov/dot/bureaus/planning/SRTS_home.htm

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