

SRTS News, July 2007: Encouraging Safe Bicycling and Walking to School

NHDOT, Planning Commissions Accepting Applications for Federal Reimbursement Funding

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Granite State communities are one step closer to encouraging more children to safely walk or ride bicycles to school.

The application period is now open for the first round of reimbursement funding under the N.H. Safe Routes to School (NHSRTS) program. **The deadline** for submitting applications to Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) and the N.H. Department of Transportation (NHDOT) is Monday, **Sept. 17, 2007.**

After review and scoring by the RPCs and a statewide advisory committee, **NHDOT expects to announce the awards in December 2007.** The schedule is designed to allow communities to seek initial funding through town and school district meetings in early 2008.

A 100 percent federally funded program under the Safe,

Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) the program reimburses schools, municipalities and organizations for approved expenses.

Applications, application guidelines, and funding criteria are available for download from the [NHSRTS Web site](#) or by contacting John W. Corrigan, the state SRTS coordinator. (See Web site address and contact information below.)

Three Levels of Funding

Funding criteria and guidelines approved by the Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) on July 18, 2007 anticipate three types of applications:

1. Communities that are just beginning to form task forces and engage in **preliminary planning**. Up to \$5,000.
2. Communities that are ready to engage in **more-developed non-infrastructure programs**.

- This can include planning for infrastructure projects.
3. Communities that have **ongoing SRTS programs** and/or existing construction plans. Up to \$100,000 per infrastructure project.

RPCs, not-for-profit organizations and other public service and planning entities that are able to enter a binding contract are also eligible to apply for funds for providing services directly related to encouraging walking or pedaling to school.

Timeline

Issue request for proposals: July 23, 2007

Application submission deadline: Sept. 17, 2007

Completion of review by RPCs: Oct. 15, 2007

Completion of review by statewide advisory committee: Nov. 12, 2007

Announce awards: Dec. 3, 2007

Community Outreach

The list of communities that have begun to participate in the NHSRTS planning process continues to expand. Since the last issue of this newsletter, the NHSRTS coordinator has held preliminary meetings in **Troy, Rye and Hopkinton** as well as a follow-up session in **Portsmouth**. SRTS task forces continue to meet regularly in **Concord, Nashua** and many other communities.

Planning Process

Following federal guidelines and the experiences of other states, NHSRTS uses the planning process known as the “5Es:”

Evaluation
Education
Encouragement
Enforcement
Engineering

Successful programs to encourage more bicycle riding and walking will require cooperation among schools, local government, parents, students, and advocacy organizations. This is why creating a task force with wide representation is so important.

Getting Started

New Hampshire communities and schools that are not yet participating in the NHSRTS program are invited to get started at any time.

A recommended first step is to fill out and submit the “**preliminary school survey**” form available on the Web site or by contacting the NHSRTS coordinator. The coordinator will then meet with local leaders at their convenience to explain the program, answer questions and guide them in forming a task force and implementing the program.

The coordinator and RPCs can provide advice and technical assistance to help communities plan their programs and submit

applications that will support strong and creative local efforts to encourage walking and pedaling.

Although a planning task force is not a requirement, the funding criteria recognize the value of forming such a group. Applications will be scored on how well they address each of the “5Es.”

For more information about NHSRTS, contact:

John W. Corrigan
Safe Routes to School Coordinator
Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance
N.H. Department of Transportation
7 Hazen Drive, PO Box 483
Concord, NH 03302-0483

(603) 271-1980
jcorrigan@dot.state.nh.us

SRTS Web site:
http://www.nh.gov/dot/bureau/planning/SRTS_home.htm

