

New Hampshire SRTS News, November 2008:

Encouraging Safe Bicycling and Walking to School

Give Us Your Feedback for Round 3 Grants

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Communities and organizations throughout the Granite State will soon have an opportunity to apply for a **new round of grants** to enable and encourage students to safely walk and ride bicycles from home to school.

Anyone interested in **Safe Routes to School (SRTS)** is invited to review and comment on the revised scoring criteria and application forms found on the state [SRTS Web site](#). The comment period ends on **Wednesday, Nov. 28**, 2008 (the day before Thanksgiving). Send your comments to the coordinator (address below).

It is anticipated that the **8-week application** period for Round 3 will begin on **Monday, Dec. 8, 2008**. The **filing deadline will be Monday, Feb. 2, 2009**. After that, the Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) will have until March 30, 2009 to evaluate and score the applications. After the Statewide Advisory Committee (SAC) meets with applicants at public meetings, the committee will make a recommendation to Commissioner George Campbell. NHDOT is scheduled to announce the awards on June 15, 2009.

Separate criteria and forms have been designed for the three categories of SRTS grants:

1. **Startup grants of up to \$5,000** to cover the initial expenses of conducting surveys, holding meetings, engaging in non-infrastructure activities, and drafting a basic travel plan.

2. **Comprehensive travel plan grants of up to \$15,000** per school. These grants will pay for more in-depth plans that address the 5Es, including prioritized infrastructure projects.

3. **General grants** that can include infrastructure and/or non-infrastructure programs and projects. These grants will be based on **travel plans** that are included in the application or developed as a separate document. The cap for infrastructure projects remains at **\$100,000 per project** (generally defined as one project per school).

Communities Participate in Walk-to-School Month Activities

Students attending school in several New Hampshire communities formed **walking school buses** and **rolling bike trains** to mark International Walk -to-School Month in October. Visit our Web site for photo pages of events in Concord, Nashua, Rye and Weare.

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Surveys

A critical first step for a local SRTS program is an evaluation of current school transportation issues. **SRTS makes this part easy.** An in-class survey of students and a take-home questionnaire for parents will give local planners valuable data. Complete instructions and survey forms are available for download from the “Getting Started” page on the state’s SRTS Web site:

http://www.nh.gov/dot/bureaus/planning/SRTS_getting_started.htm

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Confused? Help is Available

Starting a local SRTS program can seem complicated and confusing, but help is available from the coordinator and Regional Planning Commissions. Interested in finding out more? The coordinator will travel to your community to meet with local leaders at your convenience (early morning as well as evening appointments are available). Using a PowerPoint presentation, he will give an overview of the program, answer any questions, and encourage a discussion of local conditions.

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Get Your Story Out

Visit the New Hampshire’s [SRTS Web site](#) to see what other Granite State communities are up to. If your school and community are sponsoring SRTS-related events – from walking school buses to bike rodeos – let the coordinator know.

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No Spam

This SRTS electronic newsletter is a resource for individuals and communities that are interested in the program. Feel free to forward it. Please notify the coordinator if you prefer to be added to or removed from the distribution list.

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