NEARLY THREE DOZEN SCHOOLS SEEK SAFE ROUTES FUNDING
COMMUNITIES APPLY FOR MORE THAN $920,000 TO ENCOURAGE WALKING AND BIKING TO SCHOOLS

Communities throughout the Granite State are developing strong local projects to encourage children to safely walk and ride bicycles to school.

Applications covering approximately 35 schools located in 16 cities and towns spread from Gorham to Nashua and from Portsmouth to Lebanon have been filed with the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT). They seek more than $926,000 in reimbursement funding under the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program. The NHDOT expects to announce awards in early December.

A Statewide Advisory Committee is currently evaluating the proposals, which been reviewed and scored by the Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs). Applicants will make presentations to the committee at NHDOT’s headquarters at 7 Hazen Drive in Concord, NH on Tuesday, Nov. 13 at 3:30 PM.

A second request for proposals will be announced after the program is evaluated. New Hampshire currently has $3.9 million available for SRTS.

“SRTS is consistent with the New Hampshire tradition of finding local solutions to local challenges,” said John W. Corrigan, the state SRTS coordinator. “I am very impressed with the creativity shown by our community leaders, and I hope more cities, towns and school districts will get involved.”

Proposed projects range from increased traffic enforcement in school zones to escort programs in which groups of children find safety in numbers by walking or riding bicycles together. Infrastructure proposals include crosswalk and intersection improvements and sidewalk construction and repairs. Some communities are looking at ways to use off-road trails for bicycling or walking to school.

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