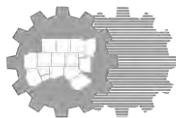




# Upcoming Funding Opportunity for Safe Routes to School



North Central Texas  
Council of Governments

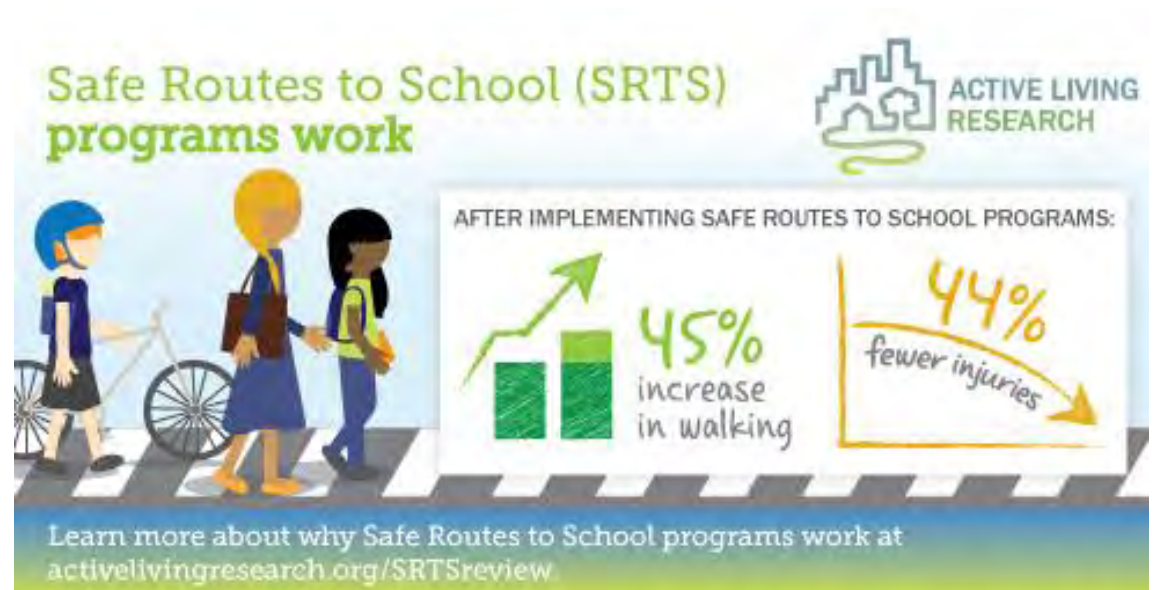
# Safe Routes to School

**WHAT:** A nationwide initiative focused on encouraging and enabling more children to safely walk and bicycle to school.

**HOW:** The 5 E's - Engineering, Education, Encouragement, Enforcement, and Evaluation.

## **WHY:**

- Safety
- Traffic congestion
- Air pollution
- Health
- Sense of community



# TA Set-Aside Call for Projects

## ELIGIBLE PROJECT CATEGORIES

- Active Transportation (Pedestrian and Bicycle) Facilities
  - Emphasis on making regional connections
- Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Infrastructure Projects
  - Active transportation facilities that substantially improve the safety and convenience of students walking and bicycling to school
  - Examples: Sidewalks, crossing improvements, traffic control/signage, traffic-calming improvements, on-street bicycle facilities, off-street bicycle and pedestrian trails, bicycle parking

# TA Set-Aside Call for Projects (*DRAFT*)

## SCHEDULE

- RTC Approves Program: December 8, 2016
- Scheduled to Open: December 12, 2016
- Application Workshop: December 14, 2016
- Deadline to Submit: February 24, 2017

## FUNDING

- Total Funding Available: approximately \$23.4 million for FY 2017-2019
  - Funding may be sub-allocated to SRTS projects. To be discussed at the November 16<sup>th</sup> Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting
- Min. Federal Funding Award Per Project: \$250,000
- Max. Federal Funding Award Per Project: \$5 million
- Local Funding Match Required: 20% of project costs



# Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Projects

- Address identified barriers for students to safely and comfortably walk and bicycle to school – in combination with education, encouragement, and enforcement efforts.



# Sidewalks

## Closing Gaps

- Filling key network gaps can reduce instances of walking in the street and crossing outside of designated crosswalks



Source: City of Grand Prairie, TX



Source: City of Princeton, TX



Source: Ulster County Transportation Council Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Toolbox

# Sidewalks

## Connectivity

- Increasing the connectivity of streets, paths, and sidewalks reduces travel distances and can make it easier for students to access schools.
- Distance = one of the greatest barriers to walking and bicycling to school



Source: City of Little Elm, TX



# Crossing Treatments

## Crossing Refuge/Island

- Allow people crossing the street to deal with one direction of car traffic at a time
- Reduce the amount of time a person is exposed to traffic



2010 Statewide SRTS Call for Projects: Park Glen Elementary School, Fort Worth



Source: Alta Planning + Design



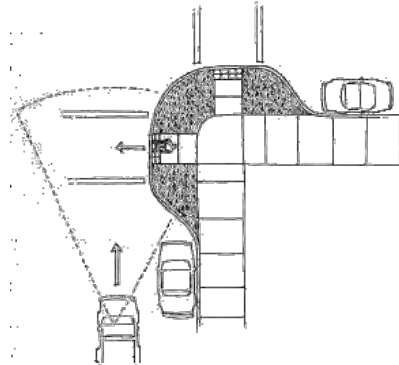
Source: City of Richmond, California



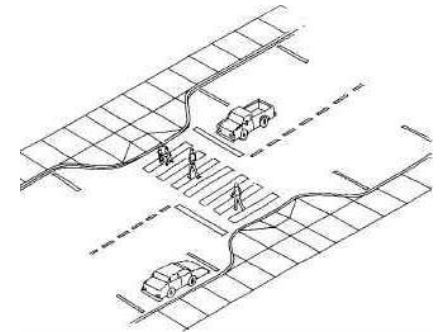
# Crossing Treatments

## Curb Extensions

- Shorten pedestrian crossing distance, reducing exposure to traffic
- Increase visibility
- Slow down cars making a right turn by making the turning angle sharper
- Work best on streets with on-street parking



Source: FHWA



Source: Ulster County Transportation Council Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Toolbox

# Crossing Treatments

## Marked Crosswalks

- Direct kids to the best place to cross the street
- Indicate the walking route to school
- Make people driving more aware of where to expect kids to cross the street



Source: Ulster County Transportation Council Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Toolbox

## *Raised Crosswalks:*

- Shown to be successful at slowing vehicle speeds and increasing yielding to pedestrians
- Best on long, straight residential streets



Source: Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center

# Crossing Treatments

## Traffic Control and Signage

- Make the presence of a person trying to cross the street known to people driving

### Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons



Source: Ulster County Transportation Council Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Toolbox

### Bicycle/Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon



*Good for mid-block crossings with poor vehicular compliance.*



# Traffic Calming

- Slow traffic down
- Improve speed limit compliance
- Reduce collision frequency and severity
- Examples:
  - Speed Feedback Signs
  - Speed Humps/Tables
  - Traffic Circles



# Bike Racks



Source: D.L. Roundtree Elementary School (Allen ISD) PTA Facebook, Bike to School Day, 5/7/14

# TA Set-Aside - SRTS Applications

- All SRTS projects must be jointly submitted by a local government and an ISD. A lead agency will be designated.
- **Who can apply?** Local governments, regional transportation authorities, transit agencies, school districts or schools, tribal government.
- Applications must include a **Resolution of support or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** from a co-applicant governing body (e.g., school board if the applicant is a city).
- **Applicants should place emphasis on:**
  - Projects that implement adopted SRTS plans
  - Potential of the project to improve safety and address an identified safety hazard for students
  - Potential of the project to increase walking and biking rates among students
  - Improving conditions around schools with a high proportion of economically disadvantaged students
  - Community support and collaboration between stakeholders
  - Project readiness

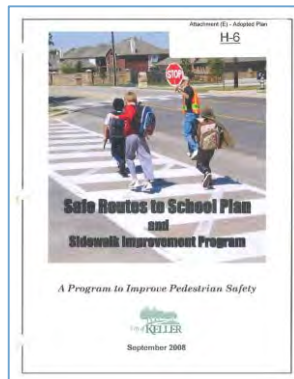
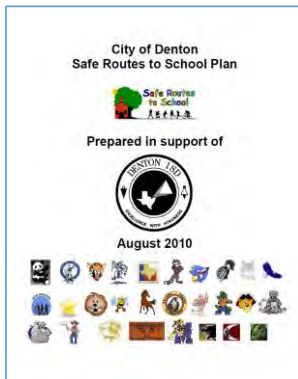


# Ideas for Getting Started Now

*Have SRTS Plans been prepared for schools in your community?*

## YES

Review the plan(s) and identify priority projects with community stakeholders (city, school district, school principals, parents, law enforcement, etc.).



## NO

1. City: reach out to school district (e.g., Director of Operations) to get a list of schools with walking/biking safety issues, or where lots of kids walk/bike. School District: send city list of schools.
2. City/School District: meet with School Principal(s) and other stakeholders to learn more about existing conditions and safety issues near the schools.
3. Identify appropriate countermeasures, prioritize projects, and begin preparing application(s).

# Next Steps (*DRAFT*)

November 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2016:	BPAC Workshop: 2:30pm
December 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2016:	Application Workshop
February 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2017:	Deadline for project application review meetings
February 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2017:	Application Deadline
May, 2017:	Public Meetings
June 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2017:	RTC to take action to select projects

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[www.nctcog.org/bikeped](http://www.nctcog.org/bikeped)