

Minnesota Safe Routes to School Program

Fall 2014 Updates

Funding Sources

In 2013, the state legislature allocated \$250,000 per year for Safe Routes to School non-infrastructure programs. In 2014, the state legislature allocated \$1 million per year to the SRTS infrastructure grant program and increased the non-infrastructure funds to \$500,000 per year.



Walk to School Day, Pierz, October 2013

In October 2014, MnDOT SRTS program will open three solicitations using the new funding source, as well as begin multiple new statewide projects. SRTS projects will also continue to be eligible for federal funding through the regional Transportation Alternative Program solicitations.

Future Solicitations

The following three solicitations using SRTS state funds will have details announced and applications available to download on the [MnDOT webpage](#) by October 8, 2014 (Walk to School Day 2014).

- **SRTS Infrastructure Solicitation:** Solicitation details will be announced in October with applications due in early 2015. This will be an infrastructure solicitation similar to previous SRTS solicitations but using a simplified state process. Projects will need to be constructed in 2015 or 2016.
- **Pilot Mini-Grant Solicitation:** Working with the regional development commissions and other regional partners, MnDOT will give out mini-grants up to \$2,500 for items to support your school or community SRTS activities. Examples include: crossing guard supplies, bike maintenance equipment and incentives for walking and biking.
- **Bicycle Fleets & Trailers:** Working with the Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota, MnDOT will hold a solicitation for communities interested in a bicycle fleet and trailer to implement the Walk! Bike! Fun! Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety curriculum in schools.



Statewide Programs

Walk! Bike! Fun! Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Curriculum

The new [Minnesota Walk! Bike! Fun! Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Curriculum](#) is a two-part curriculum designed specifically for Minnesota's schools and is structured to meet Minnesota education standards. It helps children ages five to thirteen learn traffic rules and regulations, the potential hazards to traveling, and handling skills needed to bike and walk effectively, appropriately and safely through their community.

The Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota offers teacher trainings and technical assistance to schools. You can sign up for fall teacher trainings, apply to host a teacher training, or request technical assistance on the <http://www.bikemn.org/education> webpage.

Minnesota Safe Routes to School Network

The monthly MN SRTS Network calls incorporate updates for state agencies supporting SRTS initiatives (MnDOT and MN Department of Health) and successes and challenges from local SRTS initiatives. Participants working at the local level are able to solicit input from colleagues from across the state and share lessons learned. Visit the MnDOT [SRTS Resources](#) page for details.

Coming Soon! Statewide Strategic Implementation Plan

The SRTS Steering Committee began strategic planning in June 2013. The program has been transitioning from federal to state funds and the reach of the program is expanding. This statewide implementation plan will expand on the strategic planning work started in 2013 and develop a 5-year action plan for MnDOT and partners working on SRTS around the state. Look for engagement opportunities in late fall 2014.

Coming Soon! SRTS Brand & Statewide Resource Center

The 2013 strategic planning efforts identified a need for a centralized location to share success stories, technical resources, upcoming events, provide specialized trainings and other tools for Minnesota SRTS programs. The implementation plan will assist with developing a new SRTS brand, campaign materials, and the Minnesota SRTS Statewide Resource Center that will be launched in 2015.

Safe Routes to School Travel Plans

SRTS plans are comprehensive school travel plans created for schools to evaluate existing conditions and make an action plan for future work. All plans look at existing conditions through walk audits and program evaluation and conclude by making recommendations for all 5e's (evaluation, engineering, education, encouragement and enforcement). Starting fall 2014, more than 100 new schools will begin SRTS planning work. More info can be found on the [SRTS planning](#) webpage.

For More Information

Visit: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/saferoutes/>.

Join our mailing list for SRTS announcements: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/saferoutes/contacts.html>.

