



Illinois Department of Transportation

Office of the Secretary

2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764

Telephone 217/782-6149

April 27, 2022

TO THE HONORABLE MEMEBERS OF THE 102nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SUBJECT: Annual Report of Projects Funded under the Safe Routes to School Construction Program

Public Act 094-0493 requires the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to submit a report to the Illinois General Assembly annually on March 30th listing and describing the projects funded under the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Construction Program.

The overall intent of this program is to enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to:

- walk and bicycle to school;
- make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age;
- facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety; and
- reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools.

With an increased focus on childhood obesity and the current financial constraints on schools and communities, this federally funded program continues to be of great interest in Illinois.

To date, through five complete funding cycles, IDOT has solicited applications and awarded over \$55 million to fund over 500 individual infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects throughout the State of Illinois.

The Illinois SRTS Program is administered by the Office of Programming in tandem with the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program, both funded by the federal Transportation Alternatives Program administered by the Federal Highway Administration. These two programs solicit new applications in alternating years, thereby creating a structured schedule of solicitation from both programs and regular funding opportunities for local agencies and schools throughout the state.

New SRTS funding opportunities for infrastructure initiatives were announced in the fall of 2021. 102 applications requesting over \$21.3 million were received during the SRTS application cycle for 2021. 57 projects totaling \$12.3 million were chosen for award and announced by the Governor's office on April 20, 2022. To view a complete list of awarded and non-awarded projects, visit www.idot.illinois.gov/srts and click the "Awarded Projects" tab.

In addition, SRTS staff is currently discussing additional funding opportunities that will focus on education, encouragement, enforcement, evaluation, and equity projects and events. These projects are intended to incorporate SRTS programs into even more schools and communities across Illinois.

We remain optimistic that through this program hundreds of thousands of Illinois students will continue to be encouraged and enabled to walk or bike to school, thereby instilling lifelong healthy habits.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Ms. Traci Sisk, Bureau Chief of Programming, located at 2300 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois 62764 or by email Tracinda.Sisk@illinois.gov.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Osman, J.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Omer M. Osman, P.E.
Secretary