



Illinois Department of Transportation

Office of the Secretary

2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764

Telephone 217/782-6149

March 30, 2023

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE 103rd 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, bike, and roll to school
- make non-vehicular travel modes 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.

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New SRTS funding opportunities for infrastructure initiatives were announced in the fall of 2021. There were 102 applications, requesting over \$21.3 million, received during the SRTS application cycle for 2021. IDOT was able to fund 57 projects totaling \$12.3 million. Those awards were 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.

The next SRTS funding cycle will be announced in August of 2023. This cycle will offer 100% project funding with no local match required and introduce new "user-friendly" non-infrastructure initiatives 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. These changes will be outlined in a series of presentations and individual meetings with local municipalities, school district staff, metropolitan planning organizations, and other interested parties across the state beginning in April of 2023.

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.



Omer M. Osman, P.E.
Secretary

bcc: Secretary Osman	Greg Lupton
Georgina White	Jack Elston
Steve Travia	Holly Bieneman
Guy Tridgell	Tracinda Sisk
Jon-Paul Kohler	John Paris
George Tapas	