

# Commonwealth of Virginia's Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program

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**CTB Workshop Briefing**  
**September 21, 2006**

## **SAFETEA-LU stated purposes:**

- To enable and encourage children to walk and bicycle to school
- To make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing
- To facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of safety projects and activities

## Safe Routes to School Program Goals

- Comply with CTB goals and be consistent with VDOT's Bike & Pedestrian Policy
- Create effective bike and pedestrian plans and programs in every school
- Develop model schools in every construction district
- Distribute funds across Virginia based on demonstrated safety needs and established criteria

- Elementary and Middle School Students and Parents
- Parent – Teacher Associations
- School Divisions
- Local Governments
- Non-Profit Organizations
- Va. Department of Education
- Va. Department of Health
- Va. Department of Motor Vehicles

## **VDOT developed criteria to evaluate applicants:**

- Demonstrated needs
- Identification of current and potential safe walking and bicycling routes to schools
- Identification of safety hazards
- Number of current and anticipated child pedestrians and bicyclists
- Potential to create and encourage safer walking and bicycling
- Community support for application

## Emphasis placed on awarding first-round grants to candidate “model schools” that:

- Have existing plans for improving bicycle and pedestrian access;
- Have the potential for reduction of vehicle miles traveled as a result of proposed improvements; and
- Have demonstrated a capacity to rapidly advance improvements and to work in coordination with local government agencies.

## **VDOT will use two grant types**

### **1. Program Grants ( up to 30% of funds)**

- Lays the groundwork for localities & targets safety improvements
- Develops safety education and encouragement components
- Provides funds to develop and implement required local SRTS Plans and programs
- Requires a needs assessment specific to application
- Calls for rapid grant award process

## 2. Project Grants ( up 70 -90% of funds)

- Provide physical improvements that will enhance or facilitate safe biking and walking to school
- **Safety enhancements**
  - Signalization
  - Signing
  - Traffic calming
- **Bike & pedestrian facilities**
  - Sidewalks
  - Crosswalks
  - Bike lanes/paths
  - Multi-use trails
  - Secure bike racks



- SAFETEA-LU requires that schools receiving SRTS grant funds have an approved SRTS Plan or use grant funds to develop and implement one.
- An approved SRTS Plan must be in place before Project Grant awards can proceed, and the proposed project must be consistent with the needs identified and proposed solutions in the Plan.

- CTB allocates SRTS funds into statewide line items
- VDOT Commissioner and Secretary of Transportation will review and approve Program and Project Grant awards
- Commissioner would report to CTB & FHWA on Virginia's SRTS program annually

## Advisory Committee

- VDOT lead with representatives from partner agencies and groups: DOE, VDH, DCR, DMV, BikeWalk Va., Va. PTA, and Va. Assn. of Elementary School Principals
- Reviews applications and recommends awards
- Provides advice and guidance to VDOT on program guidelines, criteria for grants, and overall program operation
- Serves as representatives to publicize SRTS and receive feedback from grantees

- Program grants to be administered by localities with quarterly progress reports and vouchers to VDOT
- Project grants to be administered locally with semi-annual progress reports and normal billing
- Measurement of results required to assess program

**September 2006**

Convene Advisory Committee

**December 31, 2006**

Grants Due

**March 1, 2007**

Award First Grants

**August 2007**

Annual SRTS Report to CTB

# Questions