

Safe Routes to School Internal Quarterly Report

for work completed in April-June 2021

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Summary: This quarter ODOT's Safe Routes to School team kicked off our new SRTS Hubs (resource centers) in Oregon to better support communities. Also, all of our new construction grantees now have signed agreements, and 10 construction projects have now been completed!

Accomplishments

Distributing Safe Routes to School Funds

- ✓ The dates for the next solicitation will begin on February 1, 2022 through March 18th. We will be solicitation applications for The Education, Construction, and Planning Assistance grants and services. The funding distribution decisions will be made in April and May for the Education and Planning Assistance grants and service and in November and December for the Construction grants.

Tracking funds to local communities

- ✓ EDUCATION PROGRAM (11 projects): Agreements are in place for 9 of 11 new grantees. Two grantees are struggling to have capacity for the grant at this time and have not signed as of yet. One grantee has signed but is taking a pause on grant work until after the school district hires a new coordinator. We are working with grantees to determine how best to prepare for back to school commutes. The biggest challenge is to reach out to schools and families and with diverse needs. We have offered to extend the current grants one more year to end on 9/30/2023 due to significant setbacks in project work due to Covid-19. At least 5 of the 9 signed grantees are planning to extend to make sure that they are able to catch up and spend funding that was challenging to accomplish in 2020. The other 2 unsigned grantees will be offered the extension when they are able to sign the grant agreement and start working on the project. Because only half of the grantees are planning to extend, we have decided start the next competitive cycle on time for 10/1/2022. This means there will be an overlap of the extended grants finishing their last year on the current grant cycle and the new grantees starting their first year on the new grant cycle (FFY 2023-2025).
- ✓ CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM (72 projects):
 - 10 projects completed: Deschutes County, La Grande, Albany, Madras, Milton-Freewater, Coos County, Tillamook, Eugene, Salem, and Florence.
 - 60 active projects: 2 projects in construction, 58 in design
 - 2 projects cancelled: Josephine County and Multnomah County
 - New programs and potential new projects: Staff is setting up the [Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategic Funding Program](#) the new \$10 million for ODOT SRTS projects in the 24-27 STIP and setting projects up for scoping.

- ✓ PLANNING ASSISTANCE: Project Identification Program (34 communities):
 - [11 completed Safe Routes to School Plans](#),
 - 4 Phase 1 Plans completed
 - 5 walk audits completed
 - 14 kick-off meetings completed
- ✓ TRANSIT PROGRAM: Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF): We received STIF Plan applications from all 42 Qualified Entities (the eligible recipients of STIF Formula funds). Most of the Qualified Entities were able to meet the requirement of allocating at least 1% of funding in their STIF Plans to student transportation each year of the 2021-23 biennium. One of the Tribes was not able to allocate 1% per year because their students ride the bus alongside regular passengers, and they weren't sure how to accurately account for the rides given to students exclusively. We also received some positive feedback about new school and transportation agency partnerships that have formed over the 2019-21 cycle, and it appears that there are many exciting student transportation projects set to begin in 2021-23.
- ✓ TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS PROGRAM: Safe Routes to School practitioners presented and collaborated at the June Transportation Options statewide meeting to share and learn best practices.

Providing Technical Services/Resources to Schools

- ✓ Staff secured funding for 5 new bike fleets and trailers and a partnership with Cycle Oregon to implement a program for communities to borrow a fleet of bikes to teach bicycle education for students.
- ✓ We have a summer intern! Colby Parkinson joined the team in June and will be working on marketing materials and other projects through September.
- ✓ Our ODE/ODOT Back to School Webinar will be held on July 20th! [Register and learn more.](#)

Challenges

- Staff held a work session to modify our Education program structure to better accommodate communities beginning SRTS programs, communities with innovative ideas, and communities that have successful SRTS programs.

Highlights for next quarter: July - September 2021

- Technical assistance contract amendment signed and executed for additional statewide education program services and planning assistance based on draft strategic needs assessment.