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Committee to recommend 43 projects for Safe Routes funding

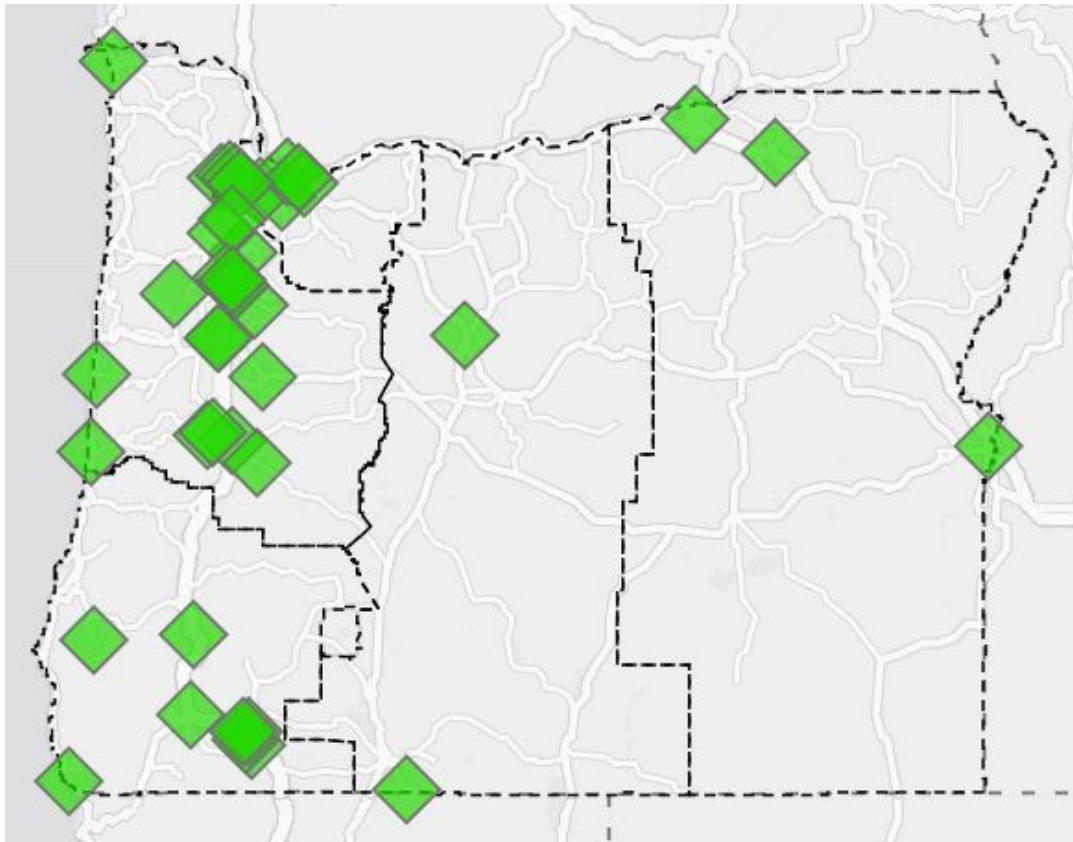
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Safe Routes to School

\$28.3 million in recommended projects goes to OTC on Dec. 1



Click on the map to see information on recommended projects.

Nov. 4, 2020

Dear Safe Routes to School enthusiasts,

We are excited to share that the Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee recommends funding 43 projects totaling \$28.3 million for ODOT's Safe Routes to School Competitive

Construction Grant Program. These funds will focus on under-resourced communities and safety. [ODOT staff created an online map](#) for you to explore an overview of the Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee recommended projects.

The committee and staff put in over 100 hours reviewing and evaluating potential projects using the scoring criteria and priorities determined by the committee in early 2020. All 99 Safe Routes to School applications addressed barriers to students walking and biking with needed safety improvements. All applicants interested in details about the project selection process or specifics about individual applications are encouraged to attend an online meeting on December 3 from 2 p.m.- 3:30 p.m. Please [register in advance](#). This meeting is open to the public.

Summary

In August 2020, ODOT received 99 applications from across the state for the SRTS Competitive Construction Grant Program totaling \$73 million in needed safety improvements. [Read more](#). The Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee met on October 20 and approved a recommended project list for the Safe Routes to School Construction Competitive Grant Program for the Oregon Transportation Commission's consideration at its December 1 meeting.

Q and A

Q: What was the competitive program's selection process and participation by the Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee?

A: Committee members approved the application [analysis procedure](#) in March 2020 based on their previously agreed safety, equity and readiness criteria and scoring weights. ODOT staff reviewed applications according to the analysis procedure and identified an initial list of projects as follows: 1) those with the highest safety risk; 2) those that addressed barriers for students at low-income schools; and 3) those that had a high probability of project completion within five years.

ODOT staff next completed a ground conditions review for the top projects. The SRAC reviewed all applications and applied its agreed upon condition to restrict applicants to receiving \$2 million total, per applicant, in order to address more Safe Routes to School construction needs across the state.

Q: What happens next?

- **December 1:** Oregon Transportation Commission reviews SRAC recommendation for discussion and decision-making. [OTC meeting](#) materials will be available two weeks before the meeting.
- **December 3:** Staff hosts an online meeting from 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. to review the project selection process ([register in advance for the meeting](#)).

Q: Is there an appeal process for applicants?

A: Yes. Because ODOT's Safe Routes to School Construction Program is located in ODOT's Public Transportation Division, an applicant may email a letter before Dec. 31, 2020 describing the appeal to Public Transportation Division Administrator Karyn Criswell: Karyn.C.Criswell@odot.state.or.us.

Q: How can the public engage in the process?

A: All SRAC meetings are open to the public with time allotted at the beginning for public comment. These meetings will be virtual, using the Zoom platform, until further notice.

[Sign up for updates.](#)

More information about the Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee:

Formed in August 2018, the Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee advises ODOT in program policy and recommendations for funding allocation for both the Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Program and Non-infrastructure Program. The Safe Routes to School Fund is guided by [OAR 737-025](#), created in 2005 for federal SRTS funding. The rule was updated in 2018 due to an increase in construction funds from HB 2017 for Safe Routes to School infrastructure and again in 2020 to increase access to the funds. More information is available on the [SRAC website](#).

All meetings of the SRAC are open to the public; accommodations, such as material in alternate formats, can be provided. Please call 503-910-8994 or statewide relay at 7-1-1 if you need accommodations.

Thank you for your support of the Safe Routes to School program!

Sincerely,

LeeAnne and Heidi

[LeeAnne Ferguson](#), ODOT Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Program manager, 503-910-8994

[Heidi Manlove](#), Safe Routes to School Non-Infrastructure Program manager, 503-986-4196

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