SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL Iowa
Federal funding program to increase the number of children safely bicycling and walking to school
Key Points

- SAFETEA-LU funding
- Minimum of $1 million per year
- Elementary and middle schools (both public and private)
- Both infrastructure and noninfrastructure projects
- Requires following strict federal regulations
Program Purposes

- Enable/encourage children to walk/bicycle to school
- Make bicycling/walking more appealing = more active lifestyle
- Improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption and air pollution near schools
Iowa Safe Routes to School

Five Program Components

- Engineering
- Education
- Enforcement
- Encouragement
- Evaluation
Iowa Safe Routes to School

Funding Framework

- Based on # of students in K thru 8
- Minimum of $1 million each year
- Reimbursement, not cash up front
- Noninfrastructure projects: 10-30%
- Funding available until spent
- No local match required
Iowa Safe Routes to School

Eligible Recipients

- State, local or regional agencies
- Nonprofit organizations
- Schools or community-based groups
  - Individual schools or cluster of schools
  - School district, multi-district, city, county or regional
Iowa Safe Routes to School

Eligible Infrastructure Projects

- Sidewalk improvements
- Pedestrian/bicycle crossings
- On-street bicycle facilities
- Off-street bike/ped facilities
- Secure bicycle parking facilities
- Traffic calming/speed reduction
- Traffic diversion improvements
Eligible Noninfrastructure Projects

- Public awareness campaigns
- Traffic education and enforcement
- Sessions on bicycle and pedestrian safety, health and environment
- Funding to develop a plan
Ineligible Uses of Funding

- Recurring costs
- Improvements primarily for drivers
- Bus safety education
- Bus stop improvements
Iowa Safe Routes to School

Development of Iowa SRTS

- Organized Advisory Committee
- Developed application forms and scoring criteria
- Developed logo and brochure
- Created Web site
  www.iowadot.gov/saferoutes
Iowa Safe Routes to School

Development of Iowa SRTS (con’t.)

- Notified all school administrators and cities
- Application forms available July 1
- Held one-day training course
Development of Iowa SRTS (con’t.)

- Applications due October 1
- 97 applications submitted
- Funding awards to be announced in February 2007
Iowa Safe Routes to School

Applications

- Two forms – infrastructure and noninfrastructure
- All projects must address both infrastructure and noninfrastructure
- Infrastructure projects: $25,000 < $250,000
- Noninfrastructure projects: $3,500
Iowa Safe Routes to School

Application Contents

- Problem
- Proposed Project
- Schedule
- Partners
- Evaluation
- Cost Estimate
Iowa Safe Routes to School

Application Approval Process

- Scoring Committee reviews applications
- DOT staff provides funding recommendations
- Transportation Commission approves projects
Applications Submitted

- Noninfrastructure
  - 16 applications
  - Requesting $1.19 million
- Infrastructure
  - 81 applications
  - Requesting $12.37 million
- Amount available: $2 million
Iowa Safe Routes to School

Applications Submitted (con’t.)

- **Applicants**: cities, schools, counties, planning agencies
- **Infrastructure**: sidewalks, over/under passes, trails, bike racks
- **Noninfrastructure**: school audits, statewide education program, regional studies
- **Amounts Requested**: $3,500 to $400,000
Future Plans

- Develop statewide encouragement and education program
- Provide transportation engineering assistance
- Make program adjustments after first funding cycle
Form a local SRTS team
Identify problem areas
Review Iowa Web site 
  iowadot.gov/saferoutes 
  and National Center Web site saferoutesinfo.org 
Watch video at  
  pacollaborative.org/resources/video.html
Iowa Safe Routes to School

How to Get Started (con’t.)

- Develop a plan
- Identify needs in bicycle/pedestrian safety education
- Start encouragement programs
- If necessary, apply for funding
Iowa Safe Routes to School

For more information
www.iowadot.gov/saferoutes
www.saferoutesinfo.org

Kathy Ridnour
Iowa Safe Routes to School
Program Coordinator
kathy.ridnour@dot.iowa.gov
515-239-1713