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Memorandum

To: CMAP Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force

From: Megan Holt-Swanson
IDOT SRTS Coordinator

Subject: Illinois SRTS Program Update

Date: July 9, 2010

SRTS Update for July 15 CMAP Bike-Ped Task Force Meeting:

- The third round of SRTS was opened on May 7, 2010. A copy of the announcement email is below. It went to everyone registered with a SRTS account and various IDOT personnel. If you do not have an account on the SRTS website, please consider registering for one.

- State Network Organizer Heather Schady from ATA also shared the information with the Illinois State Network and the Northeast Illinois SRTS Task Force.

- I have reached out to the IDOT Bureau of Local Roads and Streets Technology Transfer Center to utilize their email list and newsletter to promote SRTS. I am also working with ISBE to reach out to the school superintendents – thanks to for the suggestion and to Matt VanOver and Tim Murphy for the help. I will also be contacting Illinois Principals Association and Illinois Association of School Administrators – thanks to LIB for that information. I will also contact Illinois Municipal League and the Association of Park Districts. If anyone has any additional contact ideas or information, PLEASE let me know. We want to get the word out as much as we can!

- We are in the process of planning some SRTS trainings (in conjunction with ATA and CMAP) and some webinars to be held in late August, September and October.

- Chicago hosted the 5th Annual SRTS Coordinator's Meeting in June. We had representatives from most states and great speakers. Lenore Skenazy ("America's Worst Mom") opened our conference speaking on free range children/ free range parenting. She was a riot, but also very thought provoking. Amy Rauworth from the National Center on Physical Activity and Disability presented on the IL SRTS funded projects that they are doing to get a baseline count of students with disabilities and their participation in SRTS and a program on how to ensure that students with disabilities are included. Her presentation tied into the overarching theme about making sure that students with disabilities are being included. We also had great speakers from the Chicago Police and Health Departments. The Safe Routes Ambassadors were featured and were a huge hit. Melody Geraci came and made a presentation/request on behalf of the SRTS National Partnership regarding projects for children with disabilities. Overall, the coordinators had interesting and productive discussions about Safe Routes. After the meeting, I met with Heather S. for several hours to brainstorm about the SRTS program, ways to improve it, and ways to improve the state network. It was an excellent meeting.

Email Announcement of THIRD cycle of SRTS:

The Illinois Department of Transportation is pleased to announce a new Safe Routes to School application cycle today using FY 2010 and our estimated FY 2011 funding. This will provide for a program of approximately $15 million. With our application process timeline, we anticipate receiving and using FY 2011 funds unless federal guidelines change and require us to modify these plans.

Please see below for additional information, dates, and application information.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at DOT.SafeRoutes@illinois.gov.

GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE 2010 FUNDING CYCLE:

The 2010 planning and funding cycle has begun. To participate, interested parties are required to submit a current school travel plan (either an updated, cloned plan based off of a previous approved plan OR a new, from scratch plan) for approval. New applications will also need to be submitted.

School Travel Plan access is available year-round, so communities may begin or access their plans at any time.

DATES FOR THE 2010 CYCLE:

May 31: School Travel Plan submittal becomes available (submit button turned on)

October 1: Call for Projects opens. An approved School Travel Plan is necessary to access the application.

November 1, 5:00:00 P: Last day to submit School Travel Plan for review and comment. All Plans received after this date will either be approved or denied, and there will not be an opportunity to resubmit.

November 12, 5:00:00 P: Last day to submit a School Travel Plan for 2010 planning and application cycle. No Plans will be accepted after 5:00.

December 15, 5:00:00 P: Call for Projects closes. All applications must be in before 5:00:00. No late applications will be accepted.

January 2011: Application review and scoring begins.

Mid-Late 2011: Funded Projects announced.

FUNDING GUIDELINES:

The funding guidelines are the same as for the 2008 planning and application. They are:

One infrastructure and one non-infrastructure application permitted per school district*

(*exception for Chicago Public Schools)

One Infrastructure Application per school district

- $250,000 funding limit for total application, with up to a 3 project maximum

- $2,000 minimum funding per individual project

- Associated municipality, county, township, or park district must sponsor – school districts and non-profits may NOT sponsor

- All infrastructure projects must be within 2 miles of a public or private that houses any combination of students in grades K-8

One Non-infrastructure Application per school district

- $100,000 funding limit for total application, with up to a 3 project maximum

- $2,000 minimum funding per individual project

- School district, municipality, county, township, or park district or non-profit may sponsor.

Megan Holt Swanson

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You don't have to be a person of influence to be influential. In fact, the most influential people in my life are probably not even aware of the things they've taught me. - Scott Adams