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CHICAGO METROPOLITAN AGENCY FOR PLANNING

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN TASK FORCE
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Illinois Safe Routes to School Program

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ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

What should communities be doing now?

- Right now it is very important for potential sponsors to start developing their own local planning working groups.
- These working groups should represent a balanced approach to improve student safety and health and should include a wide diversity of interests. We recommend that schools, parents, students, PTO's, local health organizations, city street departments, police departments, local planning organizations, locally elected officials and Safe Routes Coalitions meet and determine/discuss the barriers that children face in walking and bicycling to school. They should then share their vision for their community and its role in Safe Routes. This is especially important so that as solutions are developed, the right stakeholders will be onboard to offer appropriate and timely advice to the working group.
- If you do not currently have a working group in place, start by having a kick-off meeting and share what your vision is for Safe Routes in your area. Develop steps so that you can reach your vision. For additional information about getting started, please refer to the "Getting Started" section of the National Center for Safe Routes to School (www.saferoutesinfo.org) website.

What is the scope of a School Travel Plan?

- A School Travel Plan/Application may be submitted on the behalf on one school, multiple schools in close proximity, multiple schools within the same school district, an entire school district, community, county or region, or the entire state.

Who should do a School Travel Plan?

- Anyone who is interested in submitting an application for grant funds must complete a School Travel Plan.
- The School Travel Plan will be available on-line in Spring 2007, and must be completed and submitted prior to the submittal of the application.

How will the School Travel Plan and application process work?

- The application process will be entirely online and will be in two separate parts comprised of (1) the School Travel Plan and (2) the actual application.
- The School Travel Plan will outline your vision for Safe Routes and reflect both long-term and immediate goals for implementing the Safe Routes to School program in your community.
- The application will focus on the specific project(s) that you hope to finance during this application cycle.

What is the schedule for workshops?

- Workshops will tentatively be held in February 2007 throughout the state

When will there be a call for projects?

- The call for projects is tentatively scheduled to open on March 1, 2007 and close at 5:00 pm on May 31, 2007.

Please continue to check the IDOT Safe Routes to School website http://www.dot.il.gov/saferoutes/index.html for updates.

To be added to an e-mail list for future information, please send an e-mail to SAFEROUTES@dot.il.gov showing INFO as the subject.