



Support HB 15-1003: Safe Routes to School Program Funding

Sponsored by Representatives Tyler & Mitsch Bush and Senator Todd

House Bill 15-1003 will continue funding for Safe Routes projects in Colorado. Without legislative action, CDOT will award the last Safe Routes grants to schools and local governments in 2015.

Please support the Tyler amendments offered in Transportation Committee:

1. Reduces the state General Fund obligation to \$750,000 for non-infrastructure projects
2. Provides continuous spending authority to allow for fund distribution in alignment with the grant cycle

What is Safe Routes to School?

Forty years ago, about 50% of all kids walked or biked to school. Now only 15% bike and walk.

Safe Routes to School programs get more children in grades K-8 to walk and bike to school safely. For the past nine years, students around the state have benefited from the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program administered by CDOT. Over \$14 million has been distributed through a competitive grant program to local communities for projects that improve infrastructure around schools and teach children bicycle and pedestrian safety skills.

Examples of SRTS programs include:

- Installation of crosswalks and traffic signals
- Designation of bike lanes and bike routes
- Sidewalk construction and repair
- Pedestrian and bike safety skills curriculum
- "Walking" school buses
- Crossing guard training programs

Why is the Safe Route to School Program Important?

Increases Safety for Children and Supports an Active Lifestyle

SRTS is the primary CDOT program focused on children's safety while they are biking or walking. 2012 saw a six-year high for pedestrian fatalities in Colorado. This safety program is needed to help reverse that trend. And getting daily exercise, like walking or biking to school, helps prevent childhood obesity and reduce health costs.

Reduces Congestion

CDOT reports that around 25% of all traffic congestion in the morning is due to driving students to school, contributing to poor air quality around schools and increased rates of childhood obesity. Helping students to regularly walk and bike to school helps unclog roads for business trips and helps reduce the risk of obesity-related diseases.

Drives Student Academic Outcomes

Studies indicate that students with higher levels of physical activity may have higher levels of academic performance (Trudeau, et al., 2008). Data also suggests that heavier children have greater risk for school absenteeism than their normal-weight peers (Geier, et al, 2007). Ensuring that there are safe routes to schools across the state helps incorporate more daily physical activity in children's lives.

Colorado Success Stories

- Safe Routes to School grants have been distributed statewide to urban, rural and suburban communities.
- CDOT reports that 95% of Colorado schools receiving SRTS funding saw a positive increase in students walking and biking to school.
- Some schools saw increases as high as 31% over pre-program levels.
- More than 500 schools statewide and more than 60 new schools per year benefit from the program, meaning that 18,000 kids each year are impacted by the safe routes to school (based on 2012-13 numbers).

2014 CDOT Funded Projects

Grantee	Funding Award	Award Type
City of Littleton	\$119,606	Infrastructure
City of Commerce City	\$284,618	Infrastructure
City of Montrose	\$288,707	Infrastructure
City of Durango	\$291,885	Infrastructure
City of Loveland	\$112,533	Infrastructure
City of Sheridan	\$174,809	Infrastructure
City of Thornton	\$237,475	Infrastructure
Town of Millikin	\$219,200	Infrastructure
City of Boulder	\$270,276	Infrastructure
City of Gunnison	\$22,325	Education
Montrose County School District RE-1J	\$69,460	Education
City of Fort Collins	\$25,325	Education
City & County of Denver	\$67,800	Education
City of Loveland	\$13,900	Education
Jeffco Public Schools	\$45,500	Education
City of Sheridan	\$69,545	Education
Englewood Schools	\$48,205	Education

HB 15-1003 Supporting Organizations

American Cancer Society, Cancer Action Network	Colorado Municipal League
American Heart Association	Colorado Public Health Association
Bicycle Colorado	Healthier Colorado
Children's Hospital Colorado	LiveWell Colorado
Colorado Action for Healthy Kids	Mission Readiness
Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police	Safe Routes to School National Partnership
Colorado Children's Campaign	SHAPE Colorado
	Southwest Energy Efficiency Project

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