

**STATE and LOCAL  
FISCAL IMPACT**

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<b>Drafting Number:</b> LLS 14-0890	<b>Date:</b> March 14, 2014
<b>Prime Sponsor(s):</b> Rep. Mitsch Bush Sen. Kerr	<b>Bill Status:</b> House Transportation and Energy <b>Fiscal Analyst:</b> Kristen Koehler (303-866-4918)

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**SHORT TITLE:** SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM STATE FUNDING

<b>Fiscal Impact Summary*</b>	<b>FY 2014-2015</b>	<b>FY 2015-2016</b>
<b>State Revenue</b>		
<b>State Expenditures</b>	<b><u>\$3.0 million</u></b>	
General Fund	\$3.0 million	
<b>FTE Position Change</b>		
<b>Appropriation Required:</b> \$3.0 million - Colorado Department of Transportation (FY 2014-15)		

\* This summary shows changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year.

**Summary of Legislation**

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) currently administers the Safe Routes to School Program (program) and distributes federal funds to state subdivisions for projects that improve the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists in school areas. Beginning in FY 2014-15, the CDOT will no longer receive federal funds for distribution.

This bill appropriates \$3.0 million General Fund to the CDOT in FY 2014-15 for the continuation of the program, and specifies that at least 20 percent but not more than 30 percent of state funds must be used for non-infrastructure projects. The bill also adds a criterion that the CDOT must consider when evaluating grant applications.

**Background**

The Safe Routes to School Program was established in Colorado through the passage of House Bill 04-1309. Over the past six years, the CDOT has received and distributed an average of \$2.1 million per year in federal funds. In July, 2012, the federal Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) was authorized, which eliminated the dedicated funding stream for the program beginning in FY 2014-15.

**State Expenditures**

In FY 2014-15, this bill increases state General Fund expenditures to the CDOT by \$3.0 million. The CDOT must track grant awards to ensure that state funds appropriated for the program are being allocated as specified by the bill; however, this effort does not require new staff resources or appropriations.

**Local Government Impact**

This bill will have a positive fiscal impact on state subdivisions that receive grant awards. Currently, infrastructure grants are awarded by the CDOT for the construction of sidewalks, blinking lights, crosswalks, intersection reconfiguration, and other similar projects in school areas. Generally, infrastructure grant award amounts range from a minimum of \$50,000 to a maximum of \$300,000 per grant, averaging about \$156,000 per grant.

Non-infrastructure project grants have a minimum award amount of \$5,000 per grant and no maximum award amount, and average about \$38,000 per grant. Examples of non-infrastructure projects include:

- education programs that train students in walking and biking safety, rules of the road, watching for traffic, and use of crosswalks;
- enforcement programs that change the way drivers operate motor vehicles in and around school zones and parking lots; and
- encouragement programs that entice students through prizes and parties to change their behavior to be more safety-focused.

For FY 2014-15, at least \$600,000 and up to \$900,000 in state funds will be available for non-infrastructure projects, while the remaining \$2.1 to \$2.4 million in state funds must be available for infrastructure projects.

**Effective Date**

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

**State Appropriations**

For FY 2014-15, this bill appropriates \$3.0 million General Fund to the Colorado Department of Transportation.

**State and Local Government Contacts**

Transportation  
Education

Cities and Counties  
Local Affairs