



TRANSPORTATION NEWSLETTER

DATE: August 2012

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS

Announcing call for Safe Routes to School Applications & Encouragement for Walk to School Day Events

STATEWIDE – The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is now accepting applications for Colorado’s 2013 Safe Routes to School (SRTS) funding. Awards for both non-infrastructure (education) and infrastructure (capital) projects are available. The goal of SRTS programs are to provide education to get more kids walking and bicycling where it is safe and to fix conditions where it is not safe.

Eligible applicants include schools, school districts, cities, counties, tribal entity, and/or any other local or regional government entity. Non-profits may apply by partnering with any of the above entities.

Colorado has one of the most sustainable SRTS programs in the nation. Each SRTS project selected must demonstrate in the application a strong commitment to program sustainability and ensure their SRTS efforts will live on long after their grant is concluded. SRTS grants are also performance based and before and after results are reported.

CDOT’s 2013 Safe Routes to School Applications are available online at: <http://www.coloradodot.info/programs/bikeped/safe-routes>. The application deadline is Friday, December 7th 2012.

CDOT is also encouraging schools to participate in Walk to School Day on Wednesday, October 3, 2012, as part of Colorado Pedestrian Month. By participating, these schools teach students how to walk and bicycle safely and inform parents and other drivers how to drive more safely around pedestrians and bicyclists.

Schools can register their Walk to School events at www.walkbiketoschool.org. This website also contains useful resources such

as promotional and educational materials, media toolkits, and low to no cost event ideas.

All Colorado schools that register their event on the website by October 3rd and commit to holding other walk to school events this school year will be included in a drawing to win fun incentive items and materials for their future events.

1 in 7 elementary schools in Colorado registered Walk to School events in 2011. Each year, Colorado sees an increase in the number of schools registering for Walk to School Day events and expects to see more schools walking in 2012.

For additional information, please contact Marissa Robinson at (303) 757-9088 or e-mail at marissa.robinson@dot.state.co.us

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THE PLANNING PROCESS

Just for your information. The status of the Gunnison Valley Transportation Planning Region and all other TPRs has been enhanced by the passage of MAP-21. The following is a brief summary:

Regional Planning

MAP-21 authorizes a state to establish a regional transportation planning organization (RTPO) to enhance, planning, coordination, and implementation of statewide strategic long-range transportation plans and transportation improvements programs. Specific emphasis is placed on addressing the needs of non-metropolitan areas. Colorado impacts with this provision are expected to be minimal, as the state has already established ten rural Transportation Planning Regions across the state, along with the five urban MPO regions. An RTPO must establish, at a minimum, a policy committee consisting of non-metropolitan local officials and representatives from the state, private sector, transportation service providers, economic development personnel, and the public. The obligations of an RTPO are:

- developing and maintaining, in cooperation with the state, regional long-range multimodal transportation plans;
- developing a regional transportation improvement program for consideration by the state;
- fostering the coordination of local planning, land use, and economic development plans with state, regional, and local transportation plans and programs;
- providing technical assistance to local officials;
- participating in national, multistate, and state policy and planning development processes to ensure the regional and local input from non-metropolitan areas;
- providing a forum for public participation in the statewide and regional transportation planning processes;
- considering and sharing plans and programs with neighboring RTPOs, MPOs, and tribal organizations; and
- serving other roles, as necessary, to support the statewide planning process.

Accelerated Funding for Surface Treatment Projects

Date: August 7, 2012

To: Transportation Commissioners

From: Timothy J. Harris, P.E.

Chief Engineer

Subject: Accelerated Funding for Surface Treatment Projects

As a follow-up to our discussion in July, this memo is to provide additional information on advancement of Surface Treatment funds and projects. The decision on advancement is anticipated to be part of the budget supplement which will be presented to you at the August meeting in Durango.

A workshop with the Regional Transportation Directors resulted in the identification of \$224 million of projects which could be advanced into FY'13.

The list of potential projects identified by the RTDs was distributed as follows:

Interstate	\$70 million
National Highway System	\$64 million
Non-NHS with AADT >4000	\$18 million
Non-NHS with AADT between 2-4000	\$43 million
Non-NHS with AADT <2000	\$29 million

Total	\$224 million

My opinion is that such a large increase to our current fiscal year allocation of \$114 million would be unsustainable in future years and would create major fluctuations in the program funding as we move ahead.

My recommendation is to advance \$86 million of the FY '14 Surface Treatment prograThe Regions would advertise the projects in late calendar year 2012 or the first quarter of

the calendar year 2013. Approximately one-third of the total program would be spent in FY '13.

All \$86 million would be spent on either Interstate or National Highway System (NHS) highways. This increased program can be delivered without significantly impacting Region staff or industry.

Additionally, for your information, we did a review of the FY '13 Surface Treatment program. That analysis shows the following distribution of the \$134 million programmed:

Interstate	\$33 million
NHS	\$51 million
Non-NHS	\$50 million

Some of these projects have been advertised and all of them were selected two or three years ago, prior to the more recent emphasis on higher volume highways. My recommendation is to let them proceed as programmed.

The highlight area above is basically what was approved by the Transportation Commission at their August meeting.

MEETING NOTICE

The Gunnison Valley TPR will have a meeting in OCTOBER

Date: October 23, 2012

Time: 10:00am to Noon

Place: Region 10 in Montrose

Representatives from CDOT Region 3 and Region 5 will be there to present and answer questions.

Vince Rogalski, Chairman

Gunnison Valley TPR

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