



Illinois Department of Transportation

Office of the Secretary

2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764

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March 30, 2025

TO THE HONORABLE MEMEBERS OF THE 104th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SUBJECT: Annual Report of Projects Funded under the Safe Routes to School Construction Program

Public Act 094-0493 requires the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to submit a report to the Illinois General Assembly annually on March 30th listing and describing the projects funded under the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Construction Program.

The overall intent of this program is to enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to:

- walk, bicycle, and roll to school;
- make bicycling, walking, and rolling to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age;
- facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety; and
- reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools.

With an increased focus on childhood obesity and the current financial constraints on schools and communities, this federally funded program continues to be of great interest in Illinois.

To date, through seven complete funding cycles, IDOT has solicited applications and awarded over \$76.7 million to fund over 595 individual infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects throughout the State of Illinois.

The Illinois SRTS Program is administered by the Bureau of Programming in tandem with the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program, both funded by the federal Transportation Alternatives Program administered by the Federal Highway Administration. These two programs solicit new applications in alternating years, thereby creating a structured schedule of solicitation from both programs and regular funding opportunities for local agencies and schools throughout the state.

March 30, 2025

New SRTS funding opportunities for infrastructure and non-infrastructure initiatives were announced in August of 2023. This cycle offered 100% project funding with no local match required and introduced new “user-friendly” non-infrastructure initiatives that focused on education, encouragement, enforcement, evaluation, and equity projects and events. These projects are intended to incorporate SRTS programs into even more schools and communities across Illinois. Additional state-wide Safe Routes to School educational initiatives are being planned for the fall of 2025.

These changes were outlined in a series of presentations and individual meetings with local municipalities, school district staff, metropolitan planning organizations, and other interested parties across the state between April and July of 2023. These presentations were attended by 318 participants state-wide with 104 one-on-one appointments held with IDOT staff. Beginning April of 2025 a second round of presentations and one-on-one appointments will be available to all interested parties.

The 2023 application cycle of Safe Routes to School closed with 148 applications requesting over \$ 29.9 million being received. There was a total of \$10 million available for funding. Awarded were 38 infrastructure projects and 9 noninfrastructure projects totaling \$9.8 million in funding awards. A list of projects recommended for award was announced on May 10, 2024. To view a complete list of awarded and non-awarded projects, visit www.idot.illinois.gov/srts and click the “Awarded Projects” tab.

A new cycle of Safe Routes to School will be announced in late summer of 2025 with \$12 million in funding being made available. We remain optimistic that through this program hundreds of thousands of Illinois students will continue to be encouraged and enabled to walk or bike to school, thereby instilling lifelong healthy habits.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Ms. Traci Sisk, Bureau Chief of Programming, located at 2300 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois 62764 or by email Tracinda.Sisk@illinois.gov.



Gia Biagi
Acting Secretary