

Summary of Safe Routes to Schools Program
SEMCOG Seminar
March 14, 2013

Safe Routes to School (SR2S) is a worldwide movement to make it safe, convenient and fun for children to bicycle and walk to school. Michigan's program started in 2003 with an 11-school pilot program, which was expanded and made available to all schools statewide in 2005. Congress formalized the program in 2007.

The federal Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program was created by Section 1404 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), which was signed into public law (P.L. 109-59) on August 10, 2005.

In July 2012, Congress passed a new transportation bill titled *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century* (MAP-21). Safe Routes to School activities are eligible for funding under Transportation Alternatives.

Funding is available through both Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT).

Grants are usually in the range of \$200,000 with approximately \$190,000 for infrastructure improvements and \$8,000-\$10,000 available for non-infrastructure improvements. The project areas have to involve improving the walkability for a registered school with an adopted SR2S Action Plan. Eligible schools for registration are K-8 public, private and charter schools. High Schools would apply under the Safe Routes for Non-Drivers Program. Furthermore, the grant funding cannot be used for infrastructure improvements on the school property. It must be used to improve the safety and accessibility of the path network to the registered school.

While the project has to be of a benefit to a registered school, the entity with the fiduciary responsibility is the one that would apply for the grants. The grants are reimbursement grants where the fiduciary must pay for services rendered and then seek reimbursement. The Township could act as the fiduciary for the registered schools.

SEMCOG Funds Annually
FY 2014 submittals due 4/22/13

MDOT Funding Opportunities
Quarterly

Fiduciary Responsibility:

Design/Construction Engineering + 20% of the construction costs.

**Intense Planning Initiative Prior to Application for Grant Funding
BUT
GREAT Way to Maximize Tax Dollars on Sidewalk/Road Improvements**

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STEPS TO COMPLETE PRIOR TO APPLYING FOR FUNDING

- 1) Register one or more schools on the Michigan Fitness Foundation Website
www.saferoutesmichigan.org (No Cost to Register)
- 2) Form a Planning Team – MUST include School Principal and a Representative for the Fiduciary. It is also recommended that :
 - a) Road Authority
 - b) Law Enforcement
 - c) Civic Leaders/Elected Officials
 - d) Planning Department
 - e) Engineering Department
 - f) District Administration
 - g) Health Department
 - h) Service Organizations/Neighborhood Groups/Trail & Bicycle Groups
 - i) Parents/Teachers/Students
- 3) Survey Parents and Students
 - a) Current walking/biking habits
 - b) Concerns related to allowing a child to walk to school
- 4) Assess the walking and biking routes
 - a) Develop a route map
 - b) Walk the identified routes to identify things like
 - i) Uneven sidewalk
 - ii) Overgrown brush
 - iii) Blight/Abandoned Buildings
 - iv) Poor street lighting
 - v) Cross Walk conditions
- 5) Develop an Action Plan based on the 5 E's
 - a) Evaluation
 - b) Engineering
 - c) Enforcement
 - d) Education
 - e) Encouragement

**SEMCOG & Michigan Fitness Foundation (MFF) are available to assist
communities with the Planning Process**