



# Illinois Department of Transportation

Office of the Secretary  
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March 30, 2021

TO THE HONORABLE MEMEBERS OF THE 101st 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 and bicycle to school;
- make bicycling and walking 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 five complete funding cycles, IDOT has solicited applications and awarded over \$55 million to fund over 500 individual infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects throughout the State of Illinois.

The Illinois SRTS Program is administered by the Office 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.

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In the fall of 2018, Illinois SRTS announced the solicitation of applicants to be considered for the SRTS Funding Cycle 2019. This funding cycle offered the opportunity for schools and communities to utilize remaining funds from the Safe Accountable Flexible Efficient Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA-LU) Federal Highway Program. These funds, totaling approximately \$7.5 million, were available for 100% reimbursement, requiring no matching funds from the awarded applicants. Applications were received for over 160 infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects requesting a total of nearly \$28 million.

New SRTS funding opportunities for both infrastructure and non-infrastructure initiatives will be announced in the fall of 2021. Approximately \$12 million will be made available to applicants to further the intent of this program. In addition, SRTS staff is currently discussing additional funding opportunities that will focus 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.

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 [Traciinda.Sisk@illinois.gov](mailto:Traciinda.Sisk@illinois.gov).



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Acting Secretary