INDIANA SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Walk & Bike to School Workgroup Workshop

March 10, 2011

Purpose of Safe Routes to School Program

- 1. To enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school;
- 2. To make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age; and
- 3. To 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 primary and middle schools (Grades K-8).

Potential Benefits

- Increased pedestrian and bicycle safety
- More children walking and biking to schools
- Increased physical activity & improved health
- Improved children's focus at school
- Reduced vehicle congestion around schools
- Improved air quality & reduced fuel use
- Enhanced accessibility within the community
- Improved community partnerships
- Socialization benefits for children and parents

Infrastructure Projects

- Involve construction work
- Eligible costs include project design, right-of-way purchases and construction or installation
- Projects must be located within 2 miles of school
- Projects must benefit K 8th grade school trips
- Cost between \$5,000 and \$250,000

Non-Infrastructure Activities

- No construction or right-of-way purchases
- Education & training
- Encouragement activities
- Enforcement actions
- Safety Evaluations
- Activities must benefit K 8th grade school trips
- No 2-mile limit
- Costs between \$5,000 and \$75,000

Examples of Non-Infrastructure Activities

- Public awareness & outreach
- Route safety evaluations
- Comprehensive safe routes plans & school travel plans
- Walking & biking safety training, bicycle rodeos, education materials
- Enforcement of safe driving within 2 miles of school
- "Walking school buses", "bike trains", various participation techniques & limited incentives
- Funding to train & equip crossing guards

Eligible Applicants: Cities, towns, counties, metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), schools and

school districts. Non-profits may partner with eligible applicants.

Next Application Period: April 1, 2011 through May 27, 2011

Application Forms and Instructions: Available March 18th for download and printing on-line at

http://saferoutes.in.gov

Indiana Safe Routes to School Program

Established in 2006 based on the federal SRTS program

- All evaluations conducted by the 8-member multi-disciplinary SRTS Advisory Committee who
 makes recommendations to the INDOT Commissioner for final selection
- Completed five application cycles
- Awarded over \$13.6 million to 217 schools, including \$3.4 million awarded to 39 schools in 2010
- Out of 220 SRTS applications in five years, 86 were selected for funding, including 21 in 2010
- All SRTS projects and activities are treated as <u>local</u> projects by INDOT
- 100% federal funds with no local match and all payments are reimbursements

Indiana SRTS Priorities

- Well developed infrastructure or non-infrastructure proposals that place a clear priority on increasing walking and biking to schools <u>and</u> decreasing parents driving students to school
- Applications based on school travel plans, comprehensive safe routes plans, adopted transportation or bicycle-pedestrian plans
- Proposals exhibiting multi-disciplinary review and input from <u>local safe routes committees</u> and clear local support
- Infrastructure proposals that demonstrate linkage to <u>existing</u> walking, biking and trail facilities and consideration of secondary neighborhood and non-student benefits
- Increasing emphasis on student health benefits

General Recommendations

- Form a local committee to guide and promote SRTS
- Conduct SRTS planning to support infrastructure projects
- For most infrastructure projects, city, town or county should be official applicant
- Demonstrate a clear commitment to walking and bicycling in general
- Review & evaluate current school policies regarding walking and biking to school
- Coordinate with local law enforcement, local health community and municipal officials
- Plan for parent and student surveys and coordinate with target schools in advance
- Be creative and build enthusiasm

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