INDIANA SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

INSRTS Partnership Workshop

April 12, 2012

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 of walking and bicycling facilities for school travel
- 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 or skills 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 about walking and bicycling to school
- Route safety evaluations
- Comprehensive safe routes plans & school travel plans
- Walking & biking safety training, bike rodeos and education materials
- Enforcement of safe driving, walking and bicycling 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-profit organizations may partner with eligible applicants.

Next Application Period: March 19, 2012 through May 29, 2012

Application Forms and Instructions: Available 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
- Applications reviewed by the 8-member SRTS Advisory Committee who makes recommendations to the INDOT Commissioner for final selection
- Completed six application cycles
- Awarded over \$18.6 million, including almost \$5.1 million awarded to 81 schools in 2011
- Out of 268 SRTS applications in six years, 114 were selected for funding, including 31 in 2011
- 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 <u>reimbursements</u>

Indiana SRTS Priorities

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

Indiana SRTS Recommendations

- Read the SRTS Application Guide
- Consider both walking and bicycling travel needs
- Schools are advised to partner with cities & towns for infrastructure project applications
- Demonstrate a clear commitment to walking and bicycling
- Thoughtfully review & evaluate current school policies regarding walking and biking
- Coordinate with local law enforcement, local health community and municipal officials
- Plan in advance for parent and student surveys and coordinate with target schools

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