Resources and Funding Opportunities for School Siting and Safe Routes to School

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NCTCOG
Overview

• Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Funding for “Transportation Alternatives” and Safe Routes to School

• Safe Routes to School Training – May 2019

• Educational materials for students and parents

• NCTCOG’s School Siting Guidebook

• NCTCOG’s School Siting and Coordination Fact Sheets (*COMING SOON*)

• NCTCOG technical assistance available
TxDOT’s Call for Projects for Safe Routes to School and Transportation Alternatives Infrastructure

• NOW OPEN – Preliminary Application Deadline is April 12, 2019

• Who’s Eligible to Apply – Location Restrictions:
  • SRTS: Cities/Counties/School Districts – anywhere in the state, within 2 miles of a K-8th grade school
  • Transportation Alternatives: Cities/Counties/School Districts – nonurban areas only (population areas of 5,000 or less)

• Eligible Projects (both project categories):
  • Sidewalk improvements
  • Shared use paths and bicycle infrastructure improvements
  • Projects that improve safety for non-motorized transportation
• Local Match Requirement: SRTS = 0%, Transportation Alternatives = 20%

• Amount Available:
  • SRTS = $8.7 million
  • Transportation Alternatives = $10.6 million

• Minimum/maximum project amount: no restrictions, but funding is limited so TxDOT may request that larger projects be split into smaller segments.

• Allowable Costs:
  • SRTS: design and construction
  • Transportation Alternatives: construction only
Evaluation Criteria:

- Safety: Demonstrating need for safety improvements and appropriate safety countermeasures.
- Connectivity: Improves routes to destinations of interest.
- Quality of Life: Improves mode choice in underserved communities.
- Community Support: Public outreach demonstrates positive community support.
- Project Readiness: Ability to advance the project to construction immediately; feasibility of project; detailed cost estimates.
- Planning: Demonstrates link to formal transportation planning efforts.
• Recommended that you coordinate with your TxDOT district representative before April 12, so they can expect your application.

• TxDOT Fort Worth District:
  Phillip Hays, Phillip.Hays@txdot.gov, (817) 370-6591

• TxDOT Dallas District:
  Maher Ghanayem, Maher.Ghanayem@txdot.gov, (214) 320-6691

Regional Safe Routes to School Training – May 2019

• Safe Routes to School 1-day training for engineers, planners, school district officials, and school staff.

• Learn about:
  • Engineering and encouragement strategies
  • How to conduct a Walk Audit
  • Developing Safe Routes to School Action Plans
  • Prioritizing schools and projects
  • Stakeholder engagement
NCTCOG School Siting Guidebook

Download at: www.nctcog.org/schools

• Steps for improving city-school district communication and coordination
• Strategies and criteria for siting “community-oriented schools”
• Local best-practice examples
• An overview of state regulations impacting school facility planning

1-page summaries COMING SOON on improving coordination and siting community-oriented schools
Technical Assistance Available

Depending on staff availability, NCTCOG can provide a range of technical assistance services to local communities:

- Speaking at City Council or School Board meetings
- Bringing together school districts, local governments, and transportation agencies to discuss school siting or transportation challenges
- Providing support for developing projects
- Providing technical assistance and best practice information on school siting/Safe Routes to School projects
- Walk/Bike to School Day promotion

For inquiries, please contact Kathryn Rush at krush@nctcog.org, or 817-704-5601.
Next Steps: Workshop Survey/Evaluation

• Thoughts on this workshop
• Topic ideas for future workshops
• Resource needs
Questions?
Thank you!

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