

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL WORKSHOP

TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TDOT)



www.saferoutesinfo.org

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a federally funded program focusing on the benefits of children walking and biking to school. Its primary purpose is to encourage elementary and middle school children to safely walk and bicycle to school; thereby, promoting a healthier lifestyle, reducing traffic congestion, and minimizing air pollution.

SRTS projects are popular across the country. A successful program integrates health, fitness, traffic relief, environmental awareness, and safety under one program. The program provides an opportunity to work closely with schools, the community, and the local government to create a healthy lifestyle for children and a safer, cleaner environment for everyone.

Congress provided SRTS funding to states through the federal surface transportation bill, the *Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)*. Eligible recipients include state, local, and regional agencies including non-profit organizations. Projects and activities are 100% federally funded; no match is permitted. A copy of the Program Guidelines and Application for the Tennessee SRTS is available at www.tennessee.gov/tdot/bikeped/saferoutes.htm.

SRTS workshops are being held across the state to aid in understanding the program. Part of the training will include a field review of a specific host school that will provide attendees with the knowledge to properly assess their own school's program. The workshop consists of an explanation of the application, the selection criteria, and expectations of selected programs. It is important that participants dress appropriately for the weather and wear comfortable shoes for the field review assessment.

Please note that it is required that a representative of the applicant (school employee or city/county staff) attend a workshop. If a representative has already attended a workshop during the prior year cycle, they are not required to attend again. However, the representative should be aware that program revisions have been made. The training is free and open to the public. To register, fax or email the attached registration form to: Tennessee Safe Routes to School/Diana Benedict. For questions contact the program coordinator, Diana Benedict, at (615) 253-2421 or Diana.Benedict@tn.gov.

Now is the time to get involved and walk/bike our children to better health - for everyone.