

## **Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Round 2**

### **Background**

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a federal, state and local effort to enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school — and to make walking and bicycling to school safe and appealing.

The goals of New York's Safe Routes to School Program are to assist New York communities in developing and implementing projects and programs that encourage walking and bicycling to school while enhancing the safety of these trips and increase bicycle, pedestrian and traffic safety. Successful Safe Routes to School programs in the United States usually includes one or more of these approaches: engineering, enforcement, education, encouragement and evaluation.

These programs can bring a wide range of benefits to students and the community. These include an easy way for children to get the regular physical activity they need for good health and even to ease traffic jams and reduce pollution around schools.

In the spring, NYSDOT sent out solicitation letters for Safe Routes to School Projects. Applications were due on October 5, 2012. The program uses 100% federal funds; no local match was required. The eight counties of Region 1 can expect approximately \$1.2M in Safe Routes to School Funds.

### **General Proposal Information**

- 17 Infrastructure or combined infrastructure/non-infrastructure proposals were received (see attached sheet)
- Ten (10) are from the CDTC area, Two (2) from AGFTC area and five (5) from NYSDOT rural areas
- The proposals totaled \$4,346,828 in SRTS funds requested. They ranged in value from \$137,000 to \$500,000 requested.

### **Selection Process**

For the infrastructure (and combined infrastructure/non-infrastructure) applications, an evaluation team consisting of representatives from CDTC, AGFTC, and NYSDOT Region 1 is in the process of reviewing each of the proposals using the evaluation criteria provided by NYSDOT Main Office.

The Non-Infrastructure only applications (11 statewide, 1 for Region 1) will be reviewed by a statewide committee consisting of NYSDOT, the NYS Department of Health, the NYS MPO Association and other representatives selected by the Main Office.

The evaluation criteria for the infrastructure (and combined) projects include:

- Project Scope (clearly defined, ROW, well thought out) - - 40 points
- Project Schedule (is it realistic?) - - 10 points
- Project Budget (is it detailed? Are improvements cost effective?) - - 10 points
- Community Support (partnership with school, program leadership) - - 10 points
- Sponsor/Applicant Competency--10 points
- Encouragement efforts - - 5 points
- Evaluation efforts (coordination to complete pre and post surveys) - - 5 points
- Enforcement efforts - - 5 points
- Education efforts (what kind of program is in place to ensure kids are educated about safe walking and biking behaviors?) - - 5 points

The point values are adjusted slightly for the non-infrastructure only review.

The Regional committee for infrastructure (and combined) applications is meeting on November 8<sup>th</sup> to establish a prioritized list of projects to transmit to the Main Office for consideration.

The statewide non-infrastructure review committee is meeting in mid-November to discuss the applications and develop a prioritized list for Main Office consideration.