

MAP-21 FACT SHEET

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SUBJECT: Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS) in MAP-21

PROBLEM STATEMENT:

MAP-21 consolidated the SRTS Program into the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). This means there is no longer a dedicated funding program for SRTS projects. SRTS projects, however, are eligible to compete for funding under Surface Transportation Program (STP) and certain SRTS projects are also eligible under Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP).

On August 8, 2012, Caltrans proposed funding SRTS from the HSIP taken “off the top” at \$21 million annually. This proposal would have required that SRTS projects be selected through a data driven approach that would improve safety of children walking and bicycling to school.

After consulting with various stakeholders, on September 27, 2012, Caltrans proposed funding SRTS from a \$21 million set aside in the STP. This concept was approved by the California Transportation Commission as a one year policy.

The SRTS program under SAFETEA-LU funded a 5 E program which included safety infrastructure type projects, safety education, enforcement, evaluation and also had an encouragement element to increase the numbers of children walking and bicycling to promote a more active lifestyle. On average, 26 percent of the projects have been awarded to non-infrastructure activities including encouragement programs

RECOMMENDATION:

Caltrans is recommending that a hybrid approach of HSIP and STP funding be designated for the SRTS Program long term. To continue the 5 E program, the SRTS Program would be restructured and funded with the HSIP to provide for the safety of children walking and bicycling. This would provide a proactive data driven approach in funding SRTS infrastructure projects that would focus on risk reduction and reducing injuries/fatalities of children walking and bicycling to school. A stand alone non-infrastructure program would be funded with STP funds. Utilizing STP funds for the non-infrastructure program would provide for more flexibility in the use of this fund type.

In addition, this recommendation provides for the opportunity to have two distinct safe routes to school programs in the State. The federal program would provide for infrastructure projects that have the most potential for improving safety of children walking and bicycling to school which results in more children walking and bicycling and the non-infrastructure program would be maintained under STP funds. The state safe routes to school program (SR2S) program would focus on infrastructure projects that have the most potential for increasing walking and bicycling.

PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE:

In order to proceed with this recommendation, Caltrans will meet with MAP-21 Working Groups including SRTS and HSIP to discuss implementation and potential legislative changes that are needed.

Attachment(s) None yet

Section 1404 of SAFETEA-LU

Section 2330-2334 of the Streets and Highway Code

SRTS Program Guidelines: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/saferoutes/srts.htm>

SR2S Program Guidelines: http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/saferoutes/sr2s_gaf.htm