

INFORMATION RELEASE



Office of the Director

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AHTD ANNOUNCES FEDERAL FUNDING AWARDS FOR THE “SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL” PROGRAM

LITTLE ROCK (1–25) – The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) has announced the award of funding to applicants for “Safe Routes To School” Program projects in Arkansas, according to AHTD Director Scott Bennett. The program is a 100 percent Federally-funded initiative of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).

“This program is specifically directed toward enabling and encouraging students in Kindergarten through 8th grade to walk or bicycle to school,” said Bennett. “We were overwhelmed with 34 applications seeking over \$4.8 million during the fourth application period for this program. The Highway Commission was able to award approximately \$1.5 million in funds toward 20 very deserving projects.”

Areas within two miles of a K-8th grade school are eligible for funds to be disbursed in two categories – infrastructure improvements and educational programs. Improvement projects can include the planning, design and construction of sidewalks, crossings, and bicycle facilities as well as traffic diversion and speed reduction improvements. Educational programs can include public awareness campaigns, traffic education, enforcement and outreach activities.

The AHTD will now work with the successful applicants to develop their proposals into completed projects. Projects selected for funding are listed below.

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SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROJECTS

Projects selected for funding:

| Applicant | Type of Proposal | Funding Awarded |
|---|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Arkansas Childrens Hospital Research Institute | Education | \$96,815 |
| City of Wynne | Planning Grant | \$3,000 |
| City of Magnolia | Infrastructure | \$116,933 |
| City of Hamburg | Infrastructure | \$116,932 |
| City of Ashdown | Infrastructure | \$66,667 |
| City of Mulberry | Infrastructure | \$82,864 |
| City of Hartford | Infrastructure | \$72,000 |
| City of Barling | Infrastructure | \$24,000 |
| Southside School District (South of Batesville) | Infrastructure | \$94,274 |
| City of Haskell | Infrastructure | \$35,189 |
| City of Haskell | Education | \$10,000 |
| City of North Little Rock | Education | \$44,740 |
| Pulaski Heights Elementary | Education | \$17,670 |
| Pulaski Heights Elementary | Infrastructure | \$86,000 |
| City of Conway | Infrastructure | \$139,590 |
| NW AR Resource Conservation and Development Council | Education | \$13,000 |
| NW AR Resource Conservation and Development Council | Planning Grant | \$3,000 |
| Bike Bentonville Bicycle Advocacy Group | Education | \$50,000 |
| City of Gosnell | Infrastructure | \$36,418 |
| City of Jonesboro | Infrastructure | \$194,946 |