



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Walking and Wheeling Newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2010 Arkansas SRTS Grant Awards
- 2010 Walk and Wheel Super School Contest
- National Center for Safe Routes to School Seeks Applications for \$1,000 Grants
- Upcoming Webinars

2010 Arkansas Safe Routes to School Grant Awards

The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) has announced the Arkansas Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS) funding awards for Fiscal Year 2009. The program is a 100 percent federally-funded initiative of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and 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 AHTD Director Dan Flowers. “We were overwhelmed with 39 applications seeking over \$7 million during the third year with this program. The Highway Commission was able to award almost \$1.4 million in funds toward 22 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.

Current projects selected for funding are: City of McGehee, City of Dumas, Farmington School District, City of Heber Springs, City of North Little Rock, City of Lonoke, City of Ward, City of El Dorado, City of Mayflower, City of Green Forest, Cave City Elementary and Middle Schools, City of Trumann, City of Jonesboro, City of Brookland, Arkansas Children’s Hospital Research Institute, City of Conway, Carroll County Resources Council, Bicycle Coalition of the Ozarks, Baseline Elementary, and Bryant Parent Teacher Organization. If you are interested in learning more about the Arkansas SRTS Program, please contact Mechelle Winslow at 501-364-4954.

2010 Walk and Wheel Super School Contest

The Injury Prevention Center at Arkansas Children’s Hospital celebrated International Walk to School Month in October by promoting the first annual 2010 Arkansas Walk & Wheel Super School contest.

2010 Walk and Wheel to School Day was a success in Arkansas. This year, nine schools registered around the state with over 4,000 children participating. Fun safety items were provided by the Arkansas Safe Routes to School Program at the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department and sent to all nine schools. The 2010 Super School was awarded a trophy for their school and each participating student received a backpack of goodies. Plaques and goodies were also awarded to the school with the highest percentage of walkers and the school with the highest percentage of wheelers. All Arkansas elementary and middle schools were invited to participate.



Forest Park Elementary



Hurricane Creek Elementary



2010 WINNERS

- 2010 Arkansas Walk and Wheel Super School
Eagle Mountain Magnet School in Batesville
- School with Highest Percentage of Walkers
Hurricane Creek Elementary in Benton
- School with Highest Percentage of Wheelers
Forest Park Elementary in Little Rock



Lamar Elementary

Surveys were sent to the registered schools and winners were chosen based on the 5 E's of the Safe Routes to School Program; Education, Encouragement, Enforcement, Engineering, and Evaluation. If you held an event at your school and have pictures you would like to share, please send them to mtwinslow@uams.edu.

SRTS Webinars

Making New Places to Play: Joint-Use Agreements Between Schools and Parks

Tuesday, November 30, 2010 • 12:00-1:00

Presenters:

Rich Dolesh, Chief of Public Policy,
National Recreation and Park Association
Joanne Gooley, MA, RD, Physical Activity Specialist,
California Project LEAN,
California Department of Health
Michael Shull, Superintendent of Planning and
Construction, Department of Recreation and Parks,
City of Los Angeles



Jonesboro, SRTS bridge project



With limited and sometimes diminishing resources, communities across the nation are challenged to provide children and adults with opportunities for physical activity. Joint-Use Agreements that allow the shared use of school and park facilities are enabling communities to meet this challenge both during and after school hours. This informative webinar, presented in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association, will examine how joint-use agreements can be negotiated to allow the shared use of school recreational facilities, parks, and community recreation centers. The benefits of these agreements include reduced costs, provision of better services to the public, and increased access to new recreational and physical activity opportunities for all ages. For more information please contact Michelle Gulley at mgulley@americawalks.org.

The National Center for Safe Routes to School partners with America Walks to offer a series of SRTS-related Webinars. The Safe Routes Coaching Action Network (CAN) Webinars are designed to educate individuals and organizations on topics that will assist with successful outreach efforts. Here is a list of just a few webinars that might interest you:

- **Safe Routes to School Mini-Grants: How a Little Can Go a Long Way**
- **How to Organize and Run a SRTS Event (step by step)**
- **Turning Walk to School Day into a Year-Round Pedestrian Program**
- **Follow the Yellow Brick Road: Learning by Example from an Award Winning SRTS Program**
- **The Real Cost of School Siting**
- **Connecting Safe Routes to School and Health**

To register for upcoming webinars or to view the library of past webinars, please visit http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/training/can_webinars.cfm/.



National Center for Safe Routes to School Seeks Applications for \$1,000 Grants

The National Center for Safe Routes to School is now accepting applications for 25 mini-grants of \$1,000 each. These mini-grants support the goal of the federal Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program, which is to enable and encourage children to safely walk and bicycle to school. They will fund activities that range from foundational efforts to help start or sustain a program to new ideas that explore the range of benefits of safe walking and bicycling to school.



The National Center's SRTS mini-grant program, now in its third award cycle, seeks creative ideas that match a school's needs and interests with ways to help improve safety and/or increase the number of students walking and rolling to school. Schools' needs and interests could encompass a variety of different focus areas, including: addressing distracted driving and personal safety; engaging children with disabilities; emphasizing physical activity and health; exploring environmental concerns; contributing to a positive learning environment; or participating in civic discussion. Specific guidelines for fundable activities are available at www.saferoutesinfo.org/minigrants/eligibleactivities/.

With the recent national focus on childhood obesity, mini-grant applicants may wish to consider incorporating goals of the Let's Move! campaign - to increase physical activity and/or empower parents and caregivers - into proposed SRTS mini-grant programs and activities. For more information, visit www.letsmove.gov.

Funded activities must occur at an elementary or middle school between January 2011 and the end of the spring 2011 semester. Applications are due Friday, Nov. 19, 2010, by 8 p.m. EST and recipients will be announced January 2011. For more information and to submit a mini-grant application, visit www.saferoutesinfo.org/minigrants/.

