

MEMORANDUM



To: Metropolitan Policy Committee
From: Carolyn Chase, School Programs Coordinator, Point2point at LTD
Date: March 27, 2018
Re: MPC 6.g: Program Update, Eugene-Springfield Safe Routes to School

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a national, statewide and local movement to increase the rate of bicycling and walking to school. The goals of SRTS are to:

- Increase Health,
- Improve Safety,
- Promote Learning,
- Reduced Environmental Impacts and
- Build Community.

The movement is a response to dramatic reductions in the rates of walking and biking to school and new trends in childhood obesity and related illnesses.

Eugene-Springfield Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a regional partnership approach to offering SRTS programming in local public schools. Operating in Springfield Public Schools, Bethel School District and Eugene 4J, the partnership focuses on meeting the goals of SRTS by work that fits into the six E's of Safe Routes to School: Education, Encouragement, Evaluation, Engineering, Enforcement and Equity. The partnership's most recognizable and established programs and initiatives are listed below:

- Bicycle Safety Education (5th or 6th grade)
- Pedestrian Safety Education (2nd grade)
- Walk+Roll Encouragement Campaigns
- Walking Routes to School Maps
- Action Plan Development for Individual Schools
- Infrastructure Needs Identification and Prioritization
- Data Collection on Mode of Travel to School
- Supporting Coordination of Walking School Buses
- Broader Community Engagement at Community Events
- Other School-based Encouragement Events (bike rodeos, bike tune-ups, bike fairy, etc.)
- Bike Parking Assessments

The regional partnership is staffed by two FTEs and two 0.5 FTEs. Each school district employs a SRTS Coordinator in charge of managing SRTS efforts while Point2point employs a half-time employee to work on regional coordination, mapping and grant administration. Program funding is a combination of MPO discretionary funds, an Oregon Department of Transportation grant, a Jane Higdon Foundation grant and local match. Funding has largely been on three-year cycles and the partnership is currently seeking continued funding for the three-year period 2019-2021.

New initiatives and programs the Partnership is undertaking include (from Strategic Plan):

- Establishing and coordinating a SRTS Advisory Committee
- Inventory and prioritize infrastructure deficiencies around all schools
- Expand bicycle and pedestrian safety education
- Expand encouragement activities to more schools and support creation of year round encouragement activities
- Understand the unmet need for crossing guards in the three districts and create a comprehensive crossing guard program.

This ambitious vision for the future of Eugene-Springfield SRTS requires continued MPC support.