



Solano Transportation Authority

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Members:

Benicia  
Dixon  
Fairfield  
Rio Vista  
Solano County  
Suisun City  
Vacaville  
Vallejo

**SR2S-AC**  
**SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL**  
**ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING AGENDA**



**Thursday, March 20, 2008**  
**Start at 2:00 p.m. in STA Conference Room**

**STA Conference Room**  
**One Harbor Center, Suite 130**  
**Suisun City, CA 94585**

The STA Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee is responsible for guiding the STA's Safe Routes to School Program and recommending projects and programs for funding countywide to the STA Board.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>ADMINISTRATOR</u>
<b>I. CALL TO ORDER—SELF INTRODUCTIONS</b>		Sam Shelton
<b>II. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT</b>		Sam Shelton
<b>III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: MARCH 20, 2008</b>		Sam Shelton
<b>IV. INFORMATION ITEMS</b>		
<b>A. STA SR2S Pilot Engineering Project Funding Program</b> <i>Informational</i> (2:10 – 2:30 p.m.)		Sam Shelton
<b>B. STA SR2S Pilot Education &amp; Encouragement Events</b> <i>Informational</i> (2:30 – 2:45 p.m.)		Sam Shelton & Judy Leaks
<b>C. SRTS Federal Grant Applications</b> <i>Informational</i> (2:45 – 3:00 p.m.)		Sam Shelton
<b>V. ADJOURNMENT</b>		
The next SR2S-AC meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, May 8, 2008, 2:00pm., STA Main Conference Room.		

**SR2S-AC MEMBERS**

Bill Bowen  
Rio Vista Chief of  
Police

Dan Schiada,  
Benicia Public Works  
Director

Dee Alarcon,  
Solano County  
Superintendent of  
Schools

Gary Leach,  
Vallejo Public Works  
Director

Jim Antone,  
Yolo-Solano  
Air Quality  
Management District

John Aycock,  
Vacaville USD  
Superintendent

Ken Davena,  
Benicia Police,  
Captain

Lynn Williams,  
Pedestrian Advisory  
Committee Rep.

Mike Segala,  
Bicycle Advisory  
Committee Rep.

Robin Cox,  
Solano County  
Public Health



DATE: February 19, 2008  
TO: STA SR2S-AC  
FROM: Sam Shelton, Assistant Project Manager  
RE: STA SR2S Pilot Engineering Project Funding Program

**Background:**

The STA's Safe Routes to School (SR2S) Program is intended to improve the safety of pedestrian and bicycle modes of student travel by enhancing related infrastructure and programs, and to provide safe passage to schools. Eligible projects will include capital improvement projects as well as education, enforcement, encouragement activities, and programs such as developing safety and health awareness materials and education programs.

In December 2007, the STA Board programmed \$240,000 in Eastern Solano Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (ECMAQ) funding to a future Safe Routes to School Program. ECMAQ funding can only be spent in the eastern portion of Solano County that falls in the Yolo-Solano air basin, making the cities of Dixon, Rio Vista, Vacaville and portions of Solano County eligible. ECMAQ funding must be spent on air emissions reduction projects identified in the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC's) T-2030. Such eligible projects include:

- Local bicycle and pedestrian projects
- Intercity bus transit hubs/rail stations in Solano County (capital costs)
- Rideshare programs (Solano Napa Commuter Information)
- Alternative Fuels programs

ECMAQ funding cannot be spent on "safety" projects without a connection to the reduction of air emissions produced by vehicles. ECMAQ funding is federal funding and is subject to federal project delivery regulations and funding rescissions; therefore, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations must be followed and project sponsors must be able to request obligation of funds by March 1, 2009 and receive obligation by May 31, 2009.

On February 13, 2008, the STA Board took the following actions to initiate the STA's Safe Routes to School Program:

1. Adopt the STA's Countywide Safe Routes to School Plan;
2. Authorize STA Staff to create a STA Safe Routes to School Program based on the STA's Countywide Safe Routes to School Plan's countywide priorities; and
3. Establish the STA's Safe Routes to School Steering Committee as a permanent advisory committee to the STA Board for the new STA Safe Route to School Program.

Below is a table of the current membership of the STA's Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee:

STA's Countywide SR2S Steering Committee		
Position	Name	Title
TAC Member	Gary Leach	Public Works Director
TAC Member	Dan Schiada	Public Works Director
BAC Member	Mike Segala	BAC Representative
PAC Member	Pat Moran	PAC Representative
Solano County Office of Education	Dee Alarcon	County Superintendent of Schools
School District Superintendent	John Aycock	Vacaville USD Superintendent
Public Safety Rep	Bill Bowen	Rio Vista Chief of Police
Public Safety Rep	Ken Davena	Benicia Police Department Captain
Air Quality Rep	Jim Antone	Yolo-Solano Air District Rep
Public Health Rep	Robin Cox	Solano County Public Health Rep

**Discussion:**

The STA is recommending a task force based review process to recommend SR2S projects eligible for ECMAQ funding to the STA Board by June 2008. Beginning in March, the STA Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee will assist STA staff in developing a pilot program to identify and recommend priority SR2S projects eligible for ECMAQ funding, for areas eligible for ECMAQ funding (Dixon, Rio Vista, Vacaville, and Eastern Solano County). This pilot program will need to balance the adopted goals of the STA's SR2S Program with MTC's ECMAQ project requirements identified in MTC's T-2030, in addition to equity issues. Staff will discuss with the SR2S Steering Committee options for allocations. These initial funds listed below are the three eligible cities and the number of school signed up for the STA's SR2S Program.

- Dixon  
2 public schools
- Rio Vista  
2 public schools
- Vacaville  
8 public schools

Since ECMAQ funding is mainly for engineering projects in eastern Solano County, the STA will continue to pursue additional funding sources for the other SR2S projects for the entire county.

Below is a preliminary timeline of committee meetings as part of the STA's Pilot SR2S Program:

- March 2008
  - STA Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee
    - Adopt committee 2008 Work plan
    - Review and recommend STA staff to carryout ECMAQ funded pilot program in Dixon, Rio Vista, Vacaville, and Eastern Solano County.

- April 2008
  - Dixon, Rio Vista, and Vacaville local task forces review locally adopted plans and recommend projects for funding.
  
- May 2008
  - SR2S Advisory Committee reviews funding requests and recommends projects for funding.
  - STA Advisory Committees review funding requests and recommend projects for funding.
  
- June 2008
  - STA Board programs ECMAQ funding for SR2S projects.

**Recommendation:**

Information only

Attachments:

- A. Local SR2S Plan for the City of Dixon
- B. Local SR2S Plan for the City of Rio Vista
- C. Local SR2S Plan for the City of Vacaville



DATE: March 6, 2008  
TO: STA Committees  
FROM: Sam Shelton, Assistant Project Manager  
RE: STA SR2S Pilot Education & Encouragement Events

**Background:**

The STA's Safe Routes to School (SR2S) Program is intended to improve the safety of pedestrian and bicycle modes of student travel by enhancing related infrastructure and programs, and to provide safe passage to schools. In December 2007, the STA Board programmed \$240,000 in Eastern Solano Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (ECMAQ) funding to a future Safe Routes to School Program. The STA will be coordinating this new program between the months of March and June.

Since ECMAQ funding is mainly for engineering projects in eastern Solano County, the STA will continue to pursue additional funding sources for the other Education, Encouragement, and Enforcement SR2S projects for the entire county.

**Discussion:**

To complement the engineering work already completed at some schools that are part of the STA's SR2S Plan, the STA is proposing to hold "safety events" in April and "Walk and Bike to School" days during the second week of May, to coincide with Bike to Work Day on May 15<sup>th</sup>. The STA will coordinate these activities between the local SR2S task forces and school principals and students to create the best possible SR2S events. These events will be coordinated and staffed by Solano Napa Commuter Information staff.

The safety events will be instructed by willing police department staff or trained non-profit staff (e.g., Cycles of Change, etc.). The STA will work to provide or reproduce materials for these events.

The "Walk and Bike to School" events will include energize station treats for students who have walked and biked to school. Event staff will give students tickets for these treats at locations along walking and biking routes to school (possibly several blocks from the school). SNCI staff will also coordinate a Climate Change Competition for schools during May using similar audits along routes to schools.

Due to limited staff and conditioned SNCI funding, the STA has resources to provide these opportunities at 5 schools. With additional volunteers, the STA could staff more school events. The STA will send school principals invitations to participate in the program events. Since we can only offer these services at 5 schools, participation will be on a first come first serve basis. To adjust for equity, we will limit participation to one school in each city until there are no longer any spots available.

The STA will survey schools countywide during the last week of May for mode statistics.

Below is a timeline of activities for the STA's SR2S Program's Education, Encouragement, and Enforcement projects:

- March 2008
  - STA Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee, March 20<sup>th</sup>.
    - Review proposed program.
    - Find partners to fund and staff events (i.e., Solano County public health bike helmet program, Multi-jurisdictional police task force, etc.)
  - STA local SR2S Taskforces
    - Find and coordinate partners for safety events (e.g., police departments, non-profits, etc.)
    - Find potential prize donors for contests.
  - School Districts
    - Attend administrator/principal meetings and update them on the STA SR2S program, events, and surveys.
    - Solicit for volunteers via 1<sup>st</sup> come 1<sup>st</sup> serve email.
    - Fingerprint and ID SNCI staff for school events.
- April 2008
  - Participating Schools
    - Coordinate with principals and students to schedule and market events.
    - Hold Safety events (e.g., Bicycle Rodeos after school, etc.)
- May 2008
  - Participating Schools
    - Hold Walk and Bike to School Week events at schools with energizer stations and "Walk and Roll" tickets.
  - STA/SNCI Staff
    - Randomly audit for Climate Change Competition at participating schools.
    - Distribute prize contests.
- June 2008
  - Collect in-school survey for mode split statistics.

**Recommendation:**

Informational



DATE: March 17, 2008  
TO: STA SR2S-AC  
FROM: Sam Shelton, Assistant Project Manager  
RE: SRTS Federal Grant Applications

**Background:**

Caltrans administers funding for Safe Routes to School projects through two separate and distinct programs: the state-legislated Program (SR2S) and the federally-legislated Program (SRTS). Both are competitive reimbursement programs that seek the same goal of increasing the number of children who walk or bicycle to school but differ in some important respects. See table below for a program comparison to determine which program to apply under.

<b>Program</b>	<b>State - <a href="#">SR2S</a></b>	<b>Federal - <a href="#">SRTS</a></b>
<b>Current Legislative Authority</b>	Streets & Highways Code Section 2330-2334, AB 57	Section 1404 in SAFETEA-LU
<b>Expires</b>	January 1, 2013	September 30, 2009
<b>Eligible Applicants</b>	Cities and counties	State, local, regional agencies; cities and counties; non-profit organizations; school districts; and federally-recognized Native American Tribes
<b>Eligible Projects</b>	Infrastructure projects (however, up to 10% of the project cost may cover an education/encouragement component)	Infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects
<b>Local Match</b>	10% required	None; 100% federally reimbursed
<b>Project Completion Deadline</b>	Within 4 state FYs after project is programmed	Within 4 federal FYs after funds are obligated
<b>Location Restriction on Infrastructure Projects</b>	None	Infrastructure projects must be within 2 miles of a grade school or middle school
<b>Targeted Beneficiaries</b>	Children in grades K-12	Children in grades K-8
<b>Cycles Completed</b>	6 cycles	1 cycle
<b>Next Call for Projects</b>	August, 2007 (Cycle 7)	February, 2008 (Cycle 2)
<b>Available Funding</b>	\$52M in Cycle 7 (06/07 & 07/08)	\$46M in Cycle 2 (08/09 & 09/10)

Text taken from <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/saferoutes/saferoutes.htm>

**Discussion:**

Caltrans plans to release a call for projects for Cycle 2 of the Federal Safe Routes to School grant program (SRTS) in the next two weeks, with applications due in May. The following details are part of draft program guidelines that are currently being review by Caltrans management.

- \$46M in funding for FY 2008/09 and FY 2009/10 will be made available to California. Caltrans plans to divide the \$46M in funding between the various Caltrans districts using the number of enrolled students in each Caltrans district. Caltrans districts will receive a minimum of \$1M each.
- Infrastructure projects are limited to grant requests of \$1M and non-infrastructure projects are limited to \$500,000.
- Non-traditional federal transportation funding recipients (non-profits, school districts, etc.) will be forced to “partner” with local agencies who traditionally do business with Caltrans (city governments or countywide agencies) through an MOU. An alternate Caltrans Master Agreement can be issued to a non-traditional recipient if necessary.

STA staff plans to submit a \$500,000 non-infrastructure request for countywide Education, Encouragement, and Enforcement activities as shown in the STA’s SR2S Plan. Local SR2S task forces are strongly encourages to submit grant requests for engineering projects shown in your locally adopted SR2S plans or conduct new walking audit and public planning events to identify new engineering projects.

**Recommendation:**

Informational