

# Safe Routes to School 2009-2011 Grant Application

The Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS) enables and encourages more students to walk, bicycle, scooter and skateboard to school. It enhances children's health and well-being, eases traffic congestion near the school and improves air quality, and improves community members' overall quality of life.

Carson City School District has a grant for the 2008-2009 school year from the Nevada Department of Transportation for the SRTS program, including projects at Al Seeliger, Fremont, and Bordewich Bray schools, and a part-time SRTS Coordinator who focuses on these three schools but works with others as well. The district has the opportunity to apply for a new grant to cover the two-year period July 2009 to June 2011.

## Coordination

- make the program district-wide for all eligible schools (six elementary and two middle)
- increase the SRTS Coordinator position from 1.5 days per week to 4 days per week
- work closely with the district staff and board to ensure that any change in busing distances are coordinated with the SRTS program

## Education

- continue the successful bicycling safety program already established for grades 3–5
- establish a pedestrian safety program at second grade in all schools; pilot a volunteer-led off-campus walking practice program at two schools
- develop a middle school program that focuses on student behavior, using a service-learning approach in which students develop solutions and select students to teach elementary students
- create a district-wide SRTS brochure for everyone and for students, and site-specific publications for drivers
- obtain professional development and training for district staff, key parent volunteers, and agency and organization staff, so that all interested individuals can contribute to the program

## Encouragement

- have monthly walk (and bike, scooter and skateboard) to school days, in addition to the international Walk to School Day in October
- create morning and/or lunch recess walking program at each school, ranging from daily to once a week, which encourages students to complete regular exercise for health and achievement, and which serves students who cannot walk to school; use school staff (paid extra hours stipend) and volunteers to support
- create safe routes maps for three additional schools

## Enforcement

- use Sheriff's Office traffic officers and volunteers to enhance classroom and PE lessons on bicycle, pedestrian, skateboard and scooter safety
- use Sheriff's Office traffic officers to target significant overspeed or reckless driving within school zones and along safe routes
- purchase additional speed display signs so that every school can use a sign for a minimum of one month per school year, with higher levels for higher traffic arterial roads

## Evaluation

- continue to do Student Arrival and Departure Tallys with all students at the beginning and end of the school year, do parent surveys once per year, and make the results available publicly

## Engineering

- early in the grant period, identify the top five safety issues in the district which discourage students and their parents from walking and bicycling to school; solve these problems during the grant period, using signing and curb painting, traffic flow modifications, and construction projects
- work closely with Carson City and NDOT so that reconstruction and construction projects enhance neighborhood walkability and safety and focus on established safe routes with a high student use