

Safe Routes to School: Planning Assistance

Planning Assistance Overview

Planning Assistance (formerly known as the Project Identification Program or PIP) offers professional consultant planning support to communities to develop a SRTS Plan that includes infrastructure recommendations to overcome key barriers to school access.

Planning Assistance is one of the three [Construction technical assistance](#) programs offered through ODOT SRTS in 2024.

HOW MANY COMMUNITIES ARE SERVED?

We anticipate that the next program will serve up to 20 communities.

ODOT SRTS has offered three rounds of Planning Assistance to date, which has served 48 communities (see our [interactive map](#)). Final plans from previous recipients can be viewed here:

www.oregonsaferoutes.org/oregon-safe-routes-plan/

WHO CAN APPLY?

School districts, publicly funded jurisdictions, cities, counties, tribes, transit districts, and other road authorities may apply.

WHAT WILL THE COMMUNITY GET OUT OF THE PROGRAM?

Consultant services will assist the community (representatives from the school/district and local road authority) to identify infrastructure needs near one school or a cluster of schools feeding into the same middle or high school. Recommendations will focus on all streets within a quarter mile of the school, as well as critical issues within two miles of the school.

The outcome of each Planning Assistance process will be a **Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Plan for each school or cluster of schools** that outlines infrastructure and education needs to address barriers to students walking and rolling to school and provides information needed to apply for the ODOT SRTS Competitive or Rapid Response Construction Grants.

NEW FOR 2024: Communities may receive technical assistance to update and prioritize previously identified projects at multiple schools.

A Comprehensive Approach

SRTS programs usually start by identifying barriers to students walking and rolling in your community. Solutions to overcome these barriers may include community engagement, walk/bike safety education for students, building safe places for kids to walk and roll such as sidewalks and safe street crossings, and more.

ODOT has programs and grants to help you get started! Applications for the following programs are open February–March 2024:

- [Education grants](#) for all levels of experience with SRTS outreach and engagement
- [Construction grants](#) for infrastructure improvements to bicycle and pedestrian access to schools
- [Construction technical assistance](#) to identify projects, refine designs, and implement surface treatments

In addition, ODOT SRTS has exciting Education programs and incentives for schools and students available year-round. Contact us or attend a Regional Hub meeting to [learn more](#).

LEARN MORE AND GET IN TOUCH!

- **2024 ODOT SRTS Solicitation materials:** www.oregonsaferoutes.org/find-funding
- **Contact:** Xao Posadas, ODOT SRTS Construction Program Manager
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Construction Program Overview

\$15 million in SRTS Construction funds are allocated annually to three programs:



- Competitive Program: 87.5%
- Rapid Response Program: 10%
- Project Identification Program: 2.5%

This one-pager focuses on the Planning Assistance program, which is an element of the Project Identification Program. For more information about other funding and technical assistance, visit the SRTS Program website: www.oregonsaferoutes.org/find-funding



How to Apply

WHERE AND WHEN CAN I APPLY?

Application materials can be found on ODOT's [SRTS website](#).

FEBRUARY 12–MARCH 25, 2024:
All ODOT SRTS grant and technical assistance programs open

SUMMER 2024:
Application review and funding decision

Project Selection

WHAT KINDS OF APPLICATIONS WILL RISE TO THE TOP FOR THIS SERVICE?

A competitive application will have some of the following criteria:

- A population under 50,000 with a high percentage of low-income households
- High percentage of students receiving free/reduced lunch or meeting other vulnerability metrics
- Road authority with have few planners on staff
- These criteria will be present at a street near the school:
 - a. High posted speed
 - b. Crossing distance greater than 30 feet
 - c. High average daily vehicles at project location
 - d. One or more school-related crashes
- Affects pre-kindergarten through high school students

ALTHOUGH WORK WILL BE COMPLETED BY A CONSULTANT, A SELECTED COMMUNITY WILL:

- Confirm commitment to participate from the road authority and the affected school
- Agree to participate in virtual Project Management Team meetings
- Agree to participate in field visit outreach and field visit

Communities interested in a deeper dive into the Education side of SRTS are invited to indicate that on their application, and they will receive planning support for Education efforts.

Oregon Department of Transportation
Safe Routes to School



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