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North Dakota Safe Routes to School Announces Available Funding

The North Dakota Department of Transportation Safe Routes to School Program is announcing the availability of funds for projects that encourage and better enable children to walk and bike safely to school.

North Dakota counties, cities, schools, and nonprofit groups have until November 20, 2008, to apply for Safe Routes to School (SRTS) funds. The SRTS program application and guidelines are available from www.dot.nd.gov and are also available from NDDOT by contacting Pam Wenger at dot@nd.gov or (701) 328-4787.

The federal program, administered by NDDOT, empowers communities to make walking and bicycling to schools a safe and routine activity. "The goal of the program is to empower communities to make walking and bicycling to school a viable transportation option for elementary and middle school students," said NDDOT Director Francis Ziegler. NDDOT is encouraging communities across North Dakota to start a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program. Starting a SRTS program is an opportunity to get involved in a program that will have a positive impact on your community and the citizens who live there by improving health, reducing traffic, helping the environment, and enhancing neighborhood safety

This program promotes walking and bicycling to schools as a routine daily activity. Safe Routes to School is a national movement to create a safe, convenient, and fun opportunity for your children to get to school safely each day, while at the same time decreasing the likelihood of childhood obesity.