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Funds available for school infrastructure projects

The 'Safe Routes to School' program offers \$2.2 million in federal funds

SALEM — The Oregon Department of Transportation is accepting applications for approximately \$2.2 million in federal funds for projects that improve safety around Oregon schools. Safe Routes to School's infrastructure program provides funding for projects that increase the opportunity for children to walk and bicycle safely to and from school. Eligible projects must be located within a two-mile radius of a qualified K-8 school facility.

Applicants may include school districts, qualified K-8 schools, and state and local government units in cooperation with a qualified school or school district. Nonprofit organizations may also apply, but only in partnership with a qualified school, school district, or state/local government unit. The project submission process includes two required deadlines:

- 1) Notice of Intent - Action Plan due: November 16, 2010
- 2) Application due: January 14, 2011

Projects will also have to meet the requirement that they can be designed and advance to construction in 2012 and 2013. Project awards will be announced in May 2011.

Projects chosen for funding will be selected through a statewide competitive process based on written applications and field review. Local matching funds are not required to receive an award.

Applications and information are available at

<http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/LGS/srts.shtml>.

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