

Oregon Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee

(Background, Duties, Membership Recommendations)

Safe Routes to School Program History

The Oregon Safe Routes to School Program was created by two pieces of legislation passed in 2005. One was a Federal transportation bill called SAFETEA-LU (Safe Accountable Flexible Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users). Among other things, this Federal bill apportioned funds for states to administer Safe Routes to School programs over five Federal fiscal years (FY2005-2009), in accordance with a formula specified in the legislation.

The other piece of legislation was Oregon House Bill 2742. The passage of this bill created The Safe Routes to School Fund and Program in anticipation of SAFETEA-LU. The state program is administered by the ODOT Transportation Safety Division (TSD), in consultation with the Oregon Transportation Safety Committee (OTSC).

The program's goal is to assist Oregon communities in identifying and reducing barriers and hazards to children, K-12, when walking or bicycling to or from school, within two miles of the school. The program may provide grants for education, engineering and enforcement, but before grants may be approved, the program must adopt administrative rules specifying criteria that will be used in awarding grants.

SRTS Advisory Committee

To assist TSD in developing the administrative rules, the OTSC directed TSD to form a Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee. The committee is to report to the Administrator of the Transportation Safety Division of the Oregon Department of Transportation. The committee is to have voting members from among the following groups:

- Law enforcement
- School district
- Pedestrian-based advocacy group
- Bicycle-based advocacy group
- Local Traffic Safety Committee or Neighborhood Association
- Public health/medical
- Legislative
- Traffic engineering
- Department of Education pupil transportation
- Marketing or community outreach
- Concerned citizen or parent

Duties of the advisory committee shall be to:

- Advise and confer on matters pertaining to amendments to the SRTS Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) establishing criteria used in awarding SRTS grants;
- Provide technical assistance to SRTS program;
- Provide a communication channel between the SRTS Program and stakeholders;
- Serve as an advocate of Safe Routes to School;
- Serve as review committee for SRTS grants.

SRAC Selection Discussion

With the assistance of the SRAC, the Safe Routes to School Program has the ability to encourage community dialogue and foster collaboration among varied constituencies all working toward the goal of improved walking and bicycling by children to school.

The selected nine committee members offer a geographic representation: (3) Portland Metro; (2) Eugene; (1) Medford; (2) Bend; (1) La Grande. They represent the following constituencies: Law Enforcement, School Districts, Pedestrian Advocate, Bicycle Advocate, Traffic Safety Committee, Traffic Engineering, Marketing/Community Outreach, Concerned Citizen, Parents.

Five liaisons have been named to the committee: one representative from the Bicycle Transportation Alliance (BTA); one representative from the Oregon Department of Education, Pupil Transportation; one representative from the Department of Human Services, Public Health Division; one representative from the Oregon Department of Transportation, Local Governments Division; and one representative from the Oregon Transportation Safety Committee.

Selections

TSD has selected, with the endorsement of the Oregon Transportation Safety Committee, the following nine candidates to the Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee and the following three candidates as liaisons to the committee. The proposed 2-year or 3-year term is included after each person's name.

Law Enforcement

David Snider (3 year term)

Police Officer, City of Gresham; 18.5 years of experience as police officer with City of Gresham; Traffic Crash Investigator; Field Training Officer; Public Information Officer for Gresham PD; pedestrian and bicyclist collision reconstruction

School District

Gary Howland (3 year term) – coming off the committee as of March 15, 2009

Operations Director for La Grande School District; 27 years of experience in education - former Elementary School Principal, former Middle School Vice-Principal; Charter Member of Union County Safe Communities Committee

Pedestrian Advocate

Diane Bishop (3 year term)

Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator for City of Eugene, 28 years, retired; managed education, facilities and encouragement programs for Eugene Bicycle and Pedestrian Program; former member of Oregon Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (OBPAC) for ODOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Program in Highway Division; member of Eugene Bicycle Coalition

Bicycle Advocate

Jonathan David (2 year term)

Transportation Planner with City of Gresham, manager of bicycle and footpath capital improvement plan; past member of advisory committees with focus on walkable/rideable community; parent of pre-school child – a potential beneficiary of SRTS program

Traffic Safety Committee/ Neighborhood Association

Louise Dix (2 year term)

Neighborhood Resource Coordinator since 2001 for the City of Medford, managing the Neighborhood Resources Division, which includes housing, neighborhood revitalization and planning. She helps to organize neighborhood associations throughout the city and also serves as a board member of the West Medford Community Coalition.

Traffic Engineer/Planner

Joe Marek (3 year term)

Traffic Engineer for Clackamas County and has been employed with the County for nearly 18 years. He brings to the SRAC a diverse knowledge of urban and rural traffic safety issues, school zone and school safety issues, road building projects and working in very fiscally constrained environments.

Marketing

Kim Curley (2 year term)

Community Outreach for Commute Options of Central Oregon; promotes alternative modes of transportation including Walk and Bike school programs, school carpools, transit, vanpools, commuter bike challenge; member of Healthy Active Central Oregon coalition

Community Outreach

Lisa VanWinkle (2 year term)

Smart Ways to School Coordinator for Commuter Solutions of Lane County, SRTS program that serves 36,000 students at 113 public and private K-12 schools in Eugene/Springfield; steering committee member of Lane Coalition on Healthy Active Youth

Concerned Citizen

Susanna Pai (3 year term)

Member of Milwaukie Public Safety Committee, active in community for over 15 years; business owner

Liaisons to the Advisory Committee

Oregon Transportation Safety Committee

Michael Laverty

Chairperson of the OTSC

Oregon Department of Education Liaison

Steven Huillet

Administrator, ODE Pupil Transportation and Fingerprinting

Oregon Department of Transportation, Local Government Liaison

Patricia Fisher

ODOT Transportation Enhancement Program Manager

Oregon Department of Human Services Liaison

Jennifer Young, MPH, RD

Nutrition and Physical Activity Coordinator, Office of Family Health, Public Health Division of DHS

Bicycle Transportation Alliance (BTA) Liaison

Lynne Mutrie

Bicycle Transportation Alliance Statewide Safe Routes to School Program Manager