



TRANSPORTATION NEWSLETTER

DATE: MARCH 2021

Vince Rogalski, Chairman

Gunnison Valley TPR

vrogal@montrose.net

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

DATE: March 12, 2021

**TO: Statewide Transportation Advisory Commission FROM: Rebecca White, Director,
Division of Transportation Development Nate Vander Broek, Bicycle and Pedestrian
Program Manager**

SUBJECT: Safe Routes to School (SRTS) FY21 and FY22 Projects

Purpose

This memo summarizes information about the list of Safe Routes to School (SRTS) projects recommended for funding for Fiscal Years 2021 and 2022.

Action Requested

CDOT staff is seeking STAC recommendation for Transportation Commission approval for the FY 2021 and FY 2022 SRTS projects as recommended by the nine-member SRTS Advisory Committee established in state statute.

In addition, the Advisory Committee is recommending that any remaining funds from this year's call for projects be offered as top-up funding to projects awarded in FY 2019 and FY 2020 that would be unable to proceed due to COVID hardships.

Background

\$6,010,924.00 in funds were made available for Safe Routes to School projects in FY 21 and 22. Requests for applications were announced in August 2020 and were due on November 4, 2020. Sixteen applications were submitted with a total request for funding of \$7,769,864.48. In order to qualify for these funds, applicants must be a political subdivision of the state. These funds must be used to benefit elementary and middle school children in grades K – 8th and projects must be within a two-mile radius of the identified school.

The Advisory Committee met in January 2021 for project selection. The Committee recommended 12 projects for funding, totaling \$5,849,743. Projects normally require a 20% cash match; however, due to COVID, projects that meet certain eligibility requirements will receive 100% of the project costs from CDOT. Eligible projects include

schools with 75% or higher free and reduced lunch rate and scored within the bottom two tiers of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's County Health Rankings. In addition, the applicant had to show financial hardship. Three projects recommended for 100% funding are: Center Consolidated Schools (NonInfrastructure), Town of Center (Infrastructure) and City of Pueblo (Infrastructure). The remaining nine projects will contribute 20% of the project total. Attachment A shows the project list with the 12 recommended projects highlighted: 9 infrastructure and 3 non-infrastructure. Four projects were not recommended for funding due to a variety of reasons including requests for funding outside of SRTS project scope, inadequate information from project partners and concern from CDOT engineers.

Select Project Highlights

While projects have been recommended for funding in all of the CDOT Regions, below are a few highlighted projects throughout Colorado:

The Town of Center, in collaboration with the Center School District, would like to increase the safety for walking and biking to school. The planned project includes two sidewalks running directly through town to the school. In addition, a crossing light is planned across Highway 112 south of the school.

The City of Salida will work to address connectivity within their community. The Monarch Spur Trail (Spur Trail), the backbone of the city's off-street bicycle and pedestrian transportation system, is a crucial safe route to access both Longfellow Elementary and Salida Montessori Charter School. Unfortunately, there are currently no easy connections to the Spur Trail for residents in the fast-growing southwestern part of the city. With this project, they intend to create and enhance safe routes to school via shared-use paths and sidewalks connecting to the Spur Trail.

City and County of Denver's Advancing a Culture of Active Transportation in Schools (ACATS) builds a sustainable Safe Routes to School (SRTS) network in Denver's K-5 public schools by pairing the City and County of Denver's active transport infrastructure priorities with safety education modules delivered by trained teacher "champions," who will shift culture within their school communities. Piloting at 3 schools over 2 program years that are scheduled to receive nearby mobility infrastructure, ACATS will transform the long-term effectiveness of Denver SRTS programs.

Next Steps

Upon approval of the Transportation Commission, CDOT will proceed with notifying grantees, program the projects into the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), and initiate the procurement process.

The Projects below were Approved at the Transportation Commission Meeting on March 18, 2021

The project below listed for the City of Gunnison helps to move that project along. This coupled with the TPR's approval of MMOF project submitted at the last TPR Meeting Is what Gunnison was looking for.



**Safe Routes to School FY 2021 and
2022 Recommended Projects as
Put Forth by
SRTS Committee on 1/12/21**

INFRASTRUCTURE

Applicant	Project Title	Amount of SRTS Funding		Region	MPO / TPR
Town of Center	Center Safe Routes to School Project	\$ 750,000	5	TPR	Recommended for Funding
City of Canon City	Safe Route for Washington and Canon Exploratory Students	\$ 627,029	2	TPR	
Denver Department of Transportation	Smith Elementary Intersection Improvements	\$ 401,692	1	MPO	
City of Gunnison	Ohio Avenue Safewalk	\$ 733,500	3	TPR	
City of Salida	Bicycle and Pedestrian Connectivity Improvements for Longfellow Elementary School	\$ 710,258	5	TPR	
City of Arvada	Secrest Elementary Safe Routes to School Sidewalk	\$ 508,022	1	MPO	
Town of Mead	Town of Mead Regional Trail	\$ 424,850	4	MPO	
City of Pueblo	Safe Routes to Haaff Elementary School	\$ 279,180	2	TPR	
Town of Hayden	Hwy 40 Pedestrian/Multi-Modal Safety Project	\$ 750,000	3	TPR	Not Funded
Town of Silverthorne	Ruby Ranch Road/Highway 9 Traffic Light	\$ -	3	TPR	
City of Alamosa	City of Alamosa Safe Routes to School	\$ -	5	TPR	
City of Fort Collins	Power Trail/Mail Creek Trail Overpass Connection	\$ -	4	MPO	

TOTAL RECOMMENDED FOR INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING \$5,184,530

FUNDS AVAILABLE

TO: THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: Rebecca White, Director, Division of Transportation Development Molly Bly, Program Manager,
Revitalizing Main Streets Grant Program

DATE: March 17, 2021

SUBJECT:

Revitalizing Main Streets

Purpose

To brief the Commission on plans to use \$30M in new state stimulus funding approved by the state legislature (SB-110).

Action

Staff is seeking Commission support via a Resolution to utilize these dollars by re-launching the Revitalizing Main Streets grant program. This re-launch would incorporate the safety, active transportation, and COVID resiliency components of current grants while applying lessons learned from the past few months of implementation.

Background

Earlier this year, Governor Polis' issued a "Build Back Stronger" budget proposal which included continued funding support for the Revitalizing Main Streets and Safer Main Streets grant programs. In March, the state legislature approved \$30M for these programs. Funding will be allocated to the state highway fund. Both of these programs are currently being administered by CDOT and have already funded some great projects. However, this new funding provides an opportunity to "relaunch" this program under the common umbrella of Revitalizing Main Streets. Staff will brief the Commission on the plans for this re-launch, including proposed evaluation criteria, funding amounts, and timelines.

Next Steps Should Commission support moving forward with this program, staff would plan to provide periodic updates as the program progresses.

Resolution #TC-2021-03-13

Approval of Department's Implementation of SB-110 (State Stimulus Funding) for the "Revitalizing Main Streets Grant Program"

Approved by the Transportation Commission on March 18, 2021.

WHEREAS, SB-110: 24-75-219 transfers thirty million dollars from the General Fund to the State Highway Fund for the purpose of providing additional funding for the Revitalizing Main Streets and Safer Main Streets Programs; and

WHEREAS, this new funding will help stimulate Colorado's economy in the wake of COVID-19, reduce pedestrian and bicycle injuries and fatalities, encourage active transportation, improve equity and accessibility, and improve public health outcomes across the transportation sector; and

WHEREAS, the Department has, to date, successfully implemented Revitalizing Main Streets and Safer Main Streets Programs statewide and in Region 1/DRCOG area, respectively; and

WHEREAS, the Department has worked to adapt the current Safer Main Streets Program for statewide implementation; emphasizing the need for safety, economic revitalization, active transportation, and improved multimodal infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Department also has worked to combine the intent and benefits of both programs under the common umbrella of the "Revitalizing Main Streets Grant Program."

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Commission herein approves the planned implementation of SB-110 "Revitalizing Main Streets" Program.

Herman F. Stockinger AAA

Herman Stockinger, Secretary
Transportation Commission of Colorado

3/18/21

Date



Grant Breakdown

Large Grants

Capital Projects up to \$2M
\$22 million

Eval Criteria:

- Safety Improvement (30%)
- Active Transportation (10%)
- Readiness (10%)
- Funding Need (10%)
- Diversity of Funding (10%)
- Equity/Economic Impacts (10%)
- Public Support (10%)
- Local Match (10%)

Small Grants

Community Projects up to \$150k
\$8 million

Eval Criteria:

- Public Health Mitigation (COVID-related) (30%)
- Active Transportation (30%)
- Readiness (20%)
- Equity/Economic Impact (10%)
- Public Support (5%)
- Innovation/Scalability (5%)

The above is a preliminary set of Evaluation Criteria. Example: Match is still a matter for discussion. In-kind is part of that discussion.

The announcement is coming.

OHV TRAVEL IN HINSDALE COUNTY

TO: THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: MIKE GOOLSBY, REGION 3 RTD

DATE: MARCH 17, 2021

SUBJECT: PROPOSED RESOLUTION #10, OHV TRAVEL IN HINSDALE COUNTY

Purpose

Adopt a resolution in place of the previously approved #TC 18-07-17 that will reflect a time extension of the resolution with additional terms and conditions as agreed upon with Hinsdale County and the Town of Lake City.

Action

TC 18-07-17 allowed CDOT to enter into an agreement with Lake City and Hinsdale County to allow OHV travel on a segment of SH 149.

General terms of the agreement included:

- The route starts at MP 73.11 (Ocean Wave Dr) in Lake City and travels south to MP 69.85 (CR 30) with no deviations
- Total length of the project was about 3.26 miles
- The program lasted for the summer seasons (May through Sept) of 2019 and 2020
- A final report on the program was required of the applicants, Lake City and Hinsdale County

Hinsdale County and the Town of Lake City are requesting a time extension in this program for another three years of implementation. In addition to the time extension, several new special terms and conditions will be attached to the permit to address concerns raised by the TC, other stakeholders and citizens in Hinsdale County.

Background

Over the course of the past several years, CDOT Region 3 has been working with the Town of Lake City and Hinsdale County to implement Resolution #TC 18-07-17 that allows CDOT to designate a section of state highway as open to OHV travel. Through this time period the group has worked closely on implementation details as well as public questions and concerns. At present, all parties agree that the program has been successfully implemented and has been conducted safely. However, all parties also agree that additional considerations should be taken to further enhance safety in the pilot program area and to address concerns raised by local stakeholders and citizens.

Next Steps Upon approval of this resolution, the Region is committed to continue to work with CSP, Hinsdale County and the Town of Lake City to refine the implementation of the program. The Region will also monitor and enforce the special terms and conditions included in the permit for this program.

This was Approved at the March 18, 2021 Transportation Commission Meeting.

MMOF Funding

Subject: Re: Additional MMOF project Funds in Gunnison Valley

There have been a couple corrections to the award amounts. According to our project tracking, Gunnison Valley has \$113,690 remaining MMOF funds to award to projects. These funds can go to existing projects, or to new projects so long as they can be implemented by the end of FY2023. Another option the TPR might consider is to award them to transit vehicle replacements, which can be implemented in a relatively short time.

Of note - All the MMOF projects awarded in the TPR are funded at 50% match rate or were approved by the TC for a reduced match rate. If these remaining funds are awarded to any of the existing projects without add'l local funding also being added to the project, the TPR would be required to submit a request to the TC to further reduce the minimum match rates. This shouldn't be a deterrent, however. The TC has previously approved all such requests. But this is a formality we must follow.

I'm happy to discuss details further if needed.

Michael Snow, MA, MPA
Transportation Planning Specialist

The remaining funding will be discussed at the April 8th TPR Meeting.

**Transportation TPR Meeting
NEXT MEETING NOTICE TPR meeting April 8, 2021
Region 10 at 10am to Noon
Possible Video Conference Only**