



DATE: July 12, 2023
TO: Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee
FROM: Amy Antunano, Assistant Program Manager-SR2S
RE: Public Safety Education and Enforcement Grant Cycle 6

Background:

The Solano Safe Routes to School (SR2S) program supports a variety of engineering and enforcement strategies as part of its comprehensive approach. The main goal for SR2S enforcement strategies is to deter unsafe behaviors of drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists, and to encourage all road users to obey traffic laws and share the road safely. Enforcement is one of the complementary strategies that SR2S programs use to enable more children to walk and bicycle to school safely.

The SR2S Program has typically allocated \$150,000 towards Safety Enforcement and Education services to local police departments in 2-year grant cycles since the grant program's inception in 2011. However, funding for this program is not guaranteed and depends on available competitive grant funding provided by the State and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC). The STA was successful in obtaining competitive Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Program funds through MTC and the California Office of Traffic Safety in the past.

The most recent SR2S Safety Education and Enforcement grant funding was awarded to the City of Benicia Police and City of Suisun City Policy Department to allow their School Resource Officers to help implement the program at their schools. Generally, smaller cities have shown the most interest in the grant program given their limited police budgets. Staff from the STA work with interested agencies to develop their grant applications in an effort to assist local agencies in making the process as simple as possible.

Discussion:

The STA successfully applied for the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Safe and Seamless Mobility Quick-Strike Funding for the STA's SR2S Program last year. As part of that award, a total of \$150K of the grant funding was provided to continue the safety education and enforcement outreach efforts of local police departments. As a result, staff is recommending the STA Board approve a call for SR2S Safety Education and Enforcement applications based on eligible activities outlined in Attachment B. The eligible activities also include encouragement activities that police departments can also consider as part of their application request.

In addition, STA staff recommends a minimum funding request of \$50,000 and a maximum request of \$75,000 for each grant application based on past experiences with the grant program. This will allow for potentially two to three grant awards this year. Staff will continue to pursue other local, State and Federal grant sources to provide additional funding in future fiscal years.

Fiscal Impact:

None. Funding for the SR2S Safety Education and Enforcement Grant funding is included in the STA 2023-24 budget for \$150,000.

Recommendation:

Authorize the STA Executive Director to issue a call for applications for the STA Safe Routes to School Safety Education and Enforcement Grant Program with a minimum grant request for \$50,000 and a maximum for \$75,000.

Attachments:

- A. FY 2023-24 Safe Routes to School Safety Education and Enforcement Grant Eligible Activities

ELIGIBLE STA SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL SAFETY EDUCATION, ENFORCEMENT AND ENCOURAGEMENT GRANT ACTIVITIES

EDUCATION ACTIVITIES*	
Plan, lead <i>and/or attend</i> a Bike Rodeo event at district school or community wide event	Develop a safe driver flyer/handout for driver safety laws around schools
Develop Traffic Safety Flyers/ Handouts for safe walking and biking to school	Hold a community wide Safety Fair (may be multi-agency, including a bike rodeo, traffic safety materials, helmet education and fitting, etc.)
Provide Safety Assemblies to Schools	
<i>*All education activities should be conducted in partnership with SR2S staff, which includes Solano Public Health and SR2S Program Coordinators.</i>	
ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES	
Attend Back to School Night/PTO Events: Provide presentation on traffic safety around schools	Attend local crossing guard training session
Using existing Crossing Guard training materials, support city and school district crossing guard programs.	Provide Directed Enforcement around schools during drop-off and pick-up times
ENCOURAGEMENT ACTIVITIES	
Attend Walk to School Day Events	Provide/Participate in Bike Rodeo Community Events
Attend Walking School Bus/ Walking Day Launch	Attend “Coffee with the Principal” meeting to discuss traffic safety issues
Participate in a school Walking School Bus, Walking Day, or Walk or Wheel (WOW) events	Work with Department Cadets to provide encouragement activities (this offers leadership opportunities for cadets)