

MEMORANDUM

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Division of Transportation Development
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DATE: July 6, 2012

TO: Transportation Commission

FROM: Debra Perkins-Smith, DTD Director

SUBJECT: MAP-21 Bicycle and Pedestrian

BACKGROUND:

In 2004, the Colorado Legislature passed a law requiring CDOT to implement a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program that would enable and encourage more children to bike and walk to school. The program includes both education and infrastructure projects.

The passage of MAP-21 alters the funding for SRTS. Under SAFETEA-LU, it was a stand-alone program that provided approximately \$2 - \$2.5 million dollars annually to Colorado. MAP-21 doesn't dissolve SRTS, but it includes it among other funding programs within the Transportation Alternatives portion of the bill. MAP-21 calls out a "safe routes for non-drivers including children..." that aligns with current SRTS efforts.

RECOMMENDATION:

To allow for the continued success of the SRTS program, allocate Federal FY 13 funds to SRTS at the same level as FY 2012. Meanwhile, use this next year to determine the direction of the program under MAP-21.

RATIONALE:

The SRTS call for projects for Federal FY 13 funds begins in August to allow grantees time to prepare their applications (which are due in December). Delaying the call for projects will hinder the implementation of projects as the program is timed to sync with both schools and public works/construction schedules.

We don't anticipate receiving federal guidance for this program for another 18 months. Funding this year will continue the program as is, while also allowing time to determine its future direction.