



MAYOR'S OFFICE

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September \_\_, 2017

Oregon Transportation Commission  
Attn: Jacque Carlisle, Commission Assistant  
355 Capitol Street, NE MS #11  
Salem, OR 97301-3871

Re: Safe Routes to School Educational Grant Funding

Dear Chair Baney and members of the Commission:

The City of Salem is submitting this letter in support of maintaining or increasing funding for the Safe Routes to School Educational grants.

The City of Salem supports developing safe, convenient and fun opportunities for children to walk, bike and roll to and from schools. Kids who walk and bike to school are healthier, happier, and often do better in school. The City has funded many sidewalk, bicycle, signal, and crossing improvements on streets near schools to improve the safety and accessibility of students. Among the many example projects in Salem – such as new sidewalks and protective crossings near schools -- is the Winter-Maple Family Friendly Bikeway project to improve safety and make biking and walking in north Salem more convenient, including to three nearby local schools. Additionally, the City continually coordinates with the Salem-Keizer School District and SKATS (Salem-Keizer's Metropolitan Planning Organization) to improve the pedestrian and bicycle system for students and all residents in Salem.

In order to take the next step in encouraging more students to walk and bike to school, the City supports the proposal to increase funding for Safe Route to School Educational grants. We understand the OTC is currently discussing an increase in the amount of federal funds for SRTS Education as part of the 2021-2024 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The City of Salem supports this increase. An increase in SRTS Education funds and a grant awarded to our area would make it possible for the City and our local partners to develop an action plan and support a SRTS coordinator to work with school staff, parents, and students on education, activities, and encouragement for walking and biking safely to schools.

Sincerely,

Chuck Bennett  
Mayor

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

❖ Reasonable accommodation and accessibility services will be provided upon request ❖  
Servicios razonables de alojamiento y accesibilidad se facilitarán por petición