

Project Selection Criteria for Safe Routes to School 2021-2022 Competitive Construction Grants

Note: This scoring matrix is pending Oregon Transportation Commission approval on April 17, 2020.

Projects will be evaluated based on the project selection criteria listed below and consistent with OAR 737-025-0092. The first set of selection criteria listed will be used to determine if the project is eligible for funding. The next set of criteria will be used to create an empirical staff score of the project for consideration in the Safe Routes Advisory Committee (SRAC) recommendations. The last project selection criteria will be used to flag any issues for consideration by the SRAC.

Step 1: Eligibility Criteria		Implementation
1	The project description does not appear to address identified problem / barrier(s) for children biking and walking to school OAR 737-025-0092(1)(a)(B) and OAR 737-025-0092(1)(a)(C)	Staff will flag an application for further review when there is no nexus drawn between problem and solution. After an application is flagged, staff will reach out to the applicant with an opportunity to update the application.
2	The project scope and project description appear to be significantly out of alignment OAR 737-025-0092(1)(a)(C)	Staff will flag an application for further review when the amount requested is out of alignment with the project OR if the information in the READINESS criteria was not taken into account in the amount requested. After an application is flagged, staff will reach out to the applicant with an opportunity to update the application.
3	The applicants must check all of the additional criteria set by statute and the Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee regarding a commitment to outreach, the project aligning with an adopted plan, within one mile of a school, school support, and support of all road authorities involved.	Automation in the application will remove applicants who don't commit to these criteria.

Project Selection Criteria for Safe Routes to School 2021-2022 Competitive Construction Grants

4	A ground conditions review was conducted and a potential issue was identified OAR 737-025-0092(1)(a)(B)	Staff will perform ground conditions to assess whether the information provided in the READINESS and SAFETY portions of the application seem accurate. The use of federal funding as match automatically triggers an in person ground conditions review. Staff completing ground conditions reviews will also weigh in on the questions in ELIGIBILITY criteria 1 and 2. After an application is flagged, staff will reach out to the applicant with an opportunity to update the application.
5	An issue was identified at some point during the review of the application that needs to be discussed	Staff will only use this category if there is an unforeseen issue with an application. After an application is flagged, staff will reach out to the applicant with an opportunity to update the application.

Step 2: Scoring

	Priority Area	Categories	Sub-categories	Score category	Total score in each category	Notes	Implementation
Focus Area	Equity	Free Reduced Lunch rate	10-19%	15	195	Title I schools will be prioritized by measuring the rate of students eligible for free/reduced lunch in addition	Automatically scored with information from the application. Applicants can find this data in school report cards, https://www.ode.state.or.us/data/reportcard/reports.aspx .
			20-29%	35			
			30-39%	55			

Project Selection Criteria for Safe Routes to School 2021-2022 Competitive Construction Grants

			40-49%	80		to Ever English Learners, race demographics, and chronic absenteeism. OAR 737-025-0095(1)(b)(C)
			50-59%	100		
			60-69%	120		
			70-79%	140		
			80-89%	160		
			90-100%	180		
		Other vulnerability assessment data points	Ever English Learner ¹ rate is above state average (23%)	5		
			Non-white student rate is above state average (35%)	5		

¹ Education agencies and the media routinely report the achievement gap between current English Learners (EL) students and their non-EL peers. However, analyzing outcomes only for current EL students does not provide a complete picture of how well schools are serving the full group of students who entered school not yet proficient in English. The Oregon Department of Education refers to this full group, which includes both current and former ELs, as Ever English Learners.

Project Selection Criteria for Safe Routes to School 2021-2022 Competitive Construction Grants

			Chronic Absenteeism ² is above state average (20%)	5			
Heavily Weighted	Readiness	High risk	Right of Way	0-20	80	Scoring will be assessed based on the risk factors associated with readiness. Partial completion/mitigation will earn a project half a credit for addressing the risk. The total number of credits for addressing risks dictates the score. OAR 737-025-0092(1)(d)(B)	20 points will be awarded if the applicant or the agency delivering the project owns the ROW, have an easement, or have permission to purchase the ROW. 10 points if they are in the process of figuring it out; 0 points if they don't know if they own the ROW.
			Public Process	0-20			20 points will be awarded if the applicant have completed public process, have done due diligence, or are currently in the process; 10 if they have done outreach but it was a long time ago (for example 5 years), not relevant for the project, or if the community was opposed but approaches have been identified to mitigate; 0 points for no outreach or if the majority of the community is currently opposed.
			Environmental	0-20			20 points will be awarded if the applicant doesn't need to address environmental issues or if they have figured out all of the details; 10 points if they know it's an issue but haven't figured out how to address it; 0 points if they don't know.

² Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing 10 percent of school days in a year, including excused, unexcused, and discipline-related absences.

Project Selection Criteria for Safe Routes to School 2021-2022 Competitive Construction Grants

		Lower risk	Storm water	0-7			7 points will be awarded if the applicant doesn't need to address storm water or if they have figured out all of the details; 5 points if they know it's an issue but haven't figured out how to address it; 0 points if they don't know.
			Utilities	0-7			7 points will be awarded if the applicant doesn't need to move utilities or if they have figured out all of the details; 5 points if they know it's an issue but haven't figured out how to address it; 0 points if they don't know.
			Design	0-6			6 points will be awarded if the applicant has attached design documents; 3 points if they are started design or have attached conceptual design; 0 points if they have not started design.
	Safety	Bicyclist or Pedestrian crash between 6am and 9pm	Non-serious injury or serious injury	5	120	Projects that are on a Priority Safety Corridor (PSC) will receive 40 points then receive additional points for the aspects of PSC that they have. All projects will receive points for including any aspects of a PSC, in accordance with the scores shown.	Automatically scored with information from the application.
			Fatality	15			
		Speed (use 85 percentile if available, posted speed if not.)	30 mph	5			
			35 mph +	15			
		Lanes or crossing distance	3 lanes, or greater than 30 feet	5			

Project Selection Criteria for Safe Routes to School 2021-2022 Competitive Construction Grants

		from curb to curb	4 lanes + or greater than 40ft crossing	15		OAR 737-025-0092(1)(b)(A)	
		Average Annual Daily Traffic	3000-5,999	5			
			6000+	15			
		Priority Safety Corridor ³		40			
Heavily Weighted	School Type	Pre-kindergarten to 8th grade or any combo		90	90	OAR 737-025-0092(1)(c)(A)	Automatically scored with information from the application.
Moderately Weighted	Proximity to School	1/2 mile or less		5	15	OAR 737-025-0092(1)(c)(B)	
		1/4 mile or less		15		OAR 737-025-0092(1)(c)(B)	
TOTAL SCORE					500		
Step 3: Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee Review and Recommendation							Implementation
In addition to the scoring criteria and eligibility criteria, projects will go through final process with the Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee before recommendation to the Oregon Transportation Commission. This set of priority lenses will be used to assess projects in the 100% list and 150% list in the 2021- 2022 Safe Routes to School Competitive Construction Grant Cycle.							This will occur at the Safe Routes to school Advisory Committee meeting scheduled in October 2020.

³ See definition for Priority Safety Corridor in Safe Routes to School Construction Program Guidelines

Project Selection Criteria for Safe Routes to School 2021-2022 Competitive Construction Grants

1	<p>Maximum Award- Each applicant can only receive \$2 million total if they have multiple applications in the 100% list. For example, an applicant may have multiple applications in the 100% list, however only applications adding up to a maximum of \$2 million will be selected for funding. In regards to ODOT, applicant refers to each ODOT region. For example, ODOT Region 1 is an applicant, ODOT Region 2 is another applicant, etc.</p>	<p>This will occur at the Safe Routes to school Advisory Committee meeting scheduled in October 2020.</p>
2	<p>New Applicants- If two or more applicants' scores are close and located near the funding cut line, the Committee may use whether the applicants received a competitive grant last cycle as a way to determine who gets funded this cycle except if the project is substantially complete. For example, the Committee may decide to fund a new applicant as opposed to an applicant that received funds in 2019 and if the project is still not substantially complete.</p>	<p>This will occur at the Safe Routes to school Advisory Committee meeting scheduled in October 2020.</p>
3	<p>Cost Effectiveness- If two or more applicants' scores are close and are located near the funding cut line, the Committee may use cost effectiveness as a way to determine what applicant gets funded. For example, the Committee may decide to fund several small projects (for example, under \$500,000 with timeline of 18 month's completion) instead of one large project (for example, over \$ 1 million).</p>	<p>This will occur at the Safe Routes to school Advisory Committee meeting scheduled in October 2020.</p>