



Safe Routes to School Grant Opportunity and Training Program

Safe Routes to School (SR2S) is a program administered by the Federal Highway Administration. It may be available to members of GVMC who partner with their local schools to improve pedestrian and bicycling facilities. The purpose of the program is to:

- Enable and encourage all children to walk and bike to school.
- Make bicycling and walking to school safer and more appealing modes of transportation.
- Develop projects and encourage activities that will improve student health and safety while reducing traffic, fuel consumption and air pollution.

This program is targeted for K-8 students who will benefit from infrastructure improvements allowing them to walk or bike to school safely.

Examples of projects eligible for funding include: sidewalk improvements, new sidewalks, sidewalk widening, sidewalk gap closures, repairs and curb ramps. On street improvements like bicycle lanes, widened lanes or shoulders, traffic signs or pavement markings are also eligible.

Many other improvements for pedestrians, bikes, traffic calming

that benefits children, street crossing signalization, bicycle parking racks, lighting, and ADA improvements are included in the program.

The program can also be used to assist with non-infrastructure projects and activities including: bicycle safety education, bicycle rodeos (many GVMC members sponsor these), increased law enforcement during times children are walking to school, volunteer safety patrol and crossing guard programs.

This program is funded under the new Transportation Alternatives through MAP-21 and could be very beneficial to communities looking for ways to increase pedestrian and bike safety around schools.

FREE Safe Routes to School Training Program

As part of our Strategic Initiative on Training, GVMC is participating along with MDOT and the Michigan Fitness Foundation in conducting a training session on Safe Routes to School. GVMC members as well as the public are invited to attend this session. Please feel free to pass this information on to interested participants or educational leaders in your communities.

The program is intended for elected and appointed local

government officials, school administrators, principals, school transportation supervisors, community planners, city and county road authorities, municipal engineers and safe route to school champions.

The session will be held:

**Wednesday August 28, 2013
9:00 am –12:00 Noon**

Grand Rapids Township Hall

1836 E. Beltline NE

Grand Rapids, MI 49525

The training program will include how to:

- Develop a Safe Routes to School education, encouragement, enforcement and engineering programs.
- Build a strong SR2S planning team
- Conduct an effective walking audit for SR2S.
- Develop an action plan and cover funding application requirements.

Registration is required. The training is FREE. You can register at:

surveymonkey.com/s/5BWW95D

You can also register by visiting the website at saferoutesmichigan/train.org If you have additional questions feel free to contact April Morrison-Harke at 517-908-3832 or GVMC.