

TAC AGENDA 12/14/21; ITEM # 8.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS TA ENDORSEMENT

Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization

REQUESTED ACTION: Review the resolution of endorsement and provide a recommendation to the RRTPO policy board.

BACKGROUND: The Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside program provides capital grant assistance for projects defined as “transportation alternatives” in federal code. The RRTPO TA allocations are directed towards on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving bike and pedestrian access to public transportation, trails that serve a transportation purpose, and Safe Routes to School projects.

Under the SAFETEA-LU Act of 2005, Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) was a separate program from the Transportation Enhancements program. MAP-21 and the later FAST Act combined the two programs into the Transportation Alternatives program. VDOT has continued providing grants for non-infrastructure SRTS programs from remaining SAFETEA-LU funds. This year, however, SRTS non-infrastructure programs were required to submit through the Transportation Alternatives program application process.

As this is the first round submitting through the TA process, the Richmond SRTS program did not request MPO endorsement for their application. VDOT and RRTPO staff have coordinated to allow the application to proceed with an endorsement submitted in January upon policy board approval.

PROGRAM DETAILS: The Safe Routes to School Coordinator works with Richmond Public Schools to encourage students to walk and bike safely to school. The program promotes safe active transportation through educational events, curriculum integration, and community engagement while advocating for infrastructure improvements. The 2015-2016 school year was the first year having a district-wide presence. In the 2021-2022 school year, the program is working with eight (including six Title I) schools to implement full programming, and includes a new partnership with Richmond Public Schools through the development and management of the new crossing guard program

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff supports this resolution and recommends TAC forward the resolution to the policy board with a recommendation for approval.

TAC REQUESTED ACTION: The following resolution is presented for TAC consideration and recommendation to the RRTPO policy board:

Whereas, the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Guidance requires all Transportation Alternatives applications located within the boundaries of a

Metropolitan Planning Organization to obtain a resolution of endorsement from the appropriate MPO; and

Whereas, this is the first round where Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) non-infrastructure programs were required to submit through the TA Set-Aside process; and

Whereas, the Richmond SRTS program has submitted an application for funding which was not included in the project list endorsed by the RRTPO; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) endorses the Richmond Safe Routes to Schools Program as an application for the FY23 – FY24 Transportation Set-Aside process.