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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Applications sought for Safe Routes to School Program

The Kansas Department of Transportation is now accepting applications through May 31 for its Safe Routes to School Program that provides funding for improvements encouraging children to walk or bike to school.

“This federally funded program will provide reimbursements to cities, counties, school districts and other entities to provide either infrastructure or non-infrastructure improvements,” said Rebecca Pepper, KDOT State Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator. “Walking and bicycling to school can be an important part of a healthy lifestyle, yet most children in Kansas do not start the day with either of these activities.”

Funding will be provided for infrastructure projects such as improvements to sidewalks, traffic calming, pedestrian and bicycle crossing, on and off street bicycle facilities, secure bicycle parking, and traffic diversions.

Non-infrastructure project activities include public awareness campaigns and outreach to press and community leaders, establishing walking school buses and bike trains, traffic education and enforcement, student training on bicycle and pedestrian safety, and funding for training volunteers and staff.

Funding will also be provided for applicants to develop safe routes to schools plans, with the possibility of future funding to implement the plan.

Pepper said there is a Phase 1 non-infrastructure project maximum of \$15,000 and a Phase 2 infrastructure project funding maximum of \$250,000 in Kansas for the Safe Routes to School program.

“This has been a very competitive application process in the past and we always have more needs than available funds,” said Pepper. “We have awarded 41 Phase 1 projects and 18 Phase 2 projects since the inception of the program.”

A copy of the application and supporting documents for the Safe Routes to School program is on the KDOT website at www.ksdot.org/burTrafficEng/sztoolbox/pdf/SRTS-Application.pdf Questions about the program can also be directed to Pepper at rpepper@ksdot.org

Also, KDOT has scheduled three workshops to provide information about filling out applications. The workshops will be in Hays, Feb 15; Wichita, Feb, 16 and Bonner Springs, Feb. 17. You must register for these workshops in order to attend by either e-mailing Pepper or calling her at 785 296-8593.

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This information can be made available in alternative accessible formats upon request.

For information about obtaining an alternative format, contact the Bureau of Transportation Information, 700 SW Harrison St., 2nd Fl West, Topeka, KS 66603-3754 or phone 785-296-3585 (Voice)/Hearing Impaired – 711.