

NEWS RELEASE

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Kansas receives national recognition for its Safe Routes to School program

The Kansas Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program has received national recognition for the development and management of its program designed to improve the health of children.

Recently, the Kansas program was bestowed the top rating of four stars by the SRTS National Partnership for the outstanding implementation and responsiveness of its program launched in 2006. SRTS is a federal reimbursement program that provides funding for infrastructure projects and educational activities that assist cities, counties and school districts to enable children to walk or bicycle to school more safely.

“I’m pleased that the Kansas program was recognized with a four-star rating,” said Lisa Koch, KDOT Coordinator of the SRTS program. “We have worked extremely hard in the last few years to create a program that both meets the needs of Kansans and serves as a ‘best practice’ for other states to follow.”

The success of KDOT’s program did not go without notice in the nation’s capital. Koch was recognized for the model Kansas program and asked to represent the nation’s 49 other SRTS Coordinators by testifying before the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure’s Sub-Committee on Highways and Transit.

Koch went to Washington in October to provide testimony regarding her involvement and assessment of the Federal SRTS program.

“I felt honored to testify at the national level concerning the importance of this program,” said Koch. “Safe Routes to School is playing an increasingly important role in engaging communities to make our children healthier.”

Safe Routes to School is a \$612 million national program created in 2005 through federal legislation. A significant decline in children walking and bicycling the past 30 years is the major reason why the SRTS program was developed. By making it a safe and an appealing alternative, children become more active as well as improve traffic safety and mobility through the SRTS program.

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