



Idaho Walk Bike Alliance

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Idaho Cities May Now Apply For Next Round Of Funding For Children Pedestrian Safety Projects

The Idaho Transportation Board and the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC) have approved a second two-million-dollar round of Children Pedestrian Safety funding. Parents dropping kids off at school is responsible for a large percentage of morning traffic congestion. These projects are designed to increase opportunities for students to be able to safely walk to school. The funding, approved during the July Idaho Transportation Board meeting and by LHTAC at the June Council meeting, is part of state funds allocated for the state and local Strategic Initiatives Program and will have an application deadline of December 6, 2018 for projects to be completed in 2019.

During the last round of Children Pedestrian Safety funding, 71 applications for proposed projects were received with an estimated cost over \$12 million dollars for only \$2 million dollars of available funds. Proposed projects included sidewalks, pathways, sidewalk repair, traffic signals, sidewalk connections, path extensions, drainage improvements, school zone signs, and school crossings. "We were surprised by the number and quality of the projects coming in from all corners of the state. It tells us there is demand for better walk and bike infrastructure from medium sized cities to small rural towns," said Cynthia Gibson Executive Director of the Idaho Walk Bike Alliance. "We are very happy that an additional two million dollars is now available to fund more of those much-needed projects," she added.

The purpose of the Strategic Initiatives Program, which was approved by House Bill 334 during the 2017 Idaho State Legislative session, is to fund transportation projects through May 31, 2019. Those local agencies compete for limited funding based upon various criteria that would improve pedestrian safety close to schools in a cost-effective manner. The Strategic Initiatives Fund is comprised of 50% of state general surplus funds. The funds are then divided with 60% going to projects on state highways and 40% to local agencies who apply for funding that is administered by the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC). A portion of both the State and Local Strategic funds are used to fund the Children Pedestrian Safety Program. Idaho Walk Bike Alliance Executive Director Cynthia Gibson is one of 3 members of the LHTAC committee that reviews grant applications for Children Pedestrian Safety projects statewide.

Idaho State House Minority Leader Mat Erpelding spearheaded House Bill 334 which funded the projects. "Communities value safe, efficient transportation corridors and that includes pedestrians and bicyclists. HB 334 provides some of the badly needed resources to ensure our communities include safe pedestrian corridors for our children and families," said Representative Mat Erpelding.

For agencies that want to apply, the 2019 application for the Children Pedestrian Safety Program is available on the LHTAC website at: <http://lhtac.org/programs/children-pedestrian-safety-program> For more information contact: Amanda LaMott, P.E.-LHTAC Safety & TAP Program at 208.344.0565 or email alamott@lhtac.org

About the Idaho Walk Bike Alliance

The mission of the Idaho Walk Bike Alliance is to promote active transportation as healthy, safe, and reliable for all Idahoans. For more information or to support Idaho Walk Bike Alliance, visit www.idahowalkbike.org.

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