



NEWS RELEASE

Today's Date: Thursday, July 5, 2012
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Caltrans Awards \$48.5 Million for *Safe Routes to School* to Increase Safety and Health

Los Angeles – Caltrans today awarded \$48.5 million of state Safe Routes to School Program funds for 139 projects to increase safety and help reduce injuries and fatalities among children in grades K-12 who walk and bicycle to school.

“Safety is Caltrans’ number one priority,” said Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty. “We are committed to providing the highest safety possible for our children as they travel to and from school in California.”

Among the state-funded projects are new sidewalks, bicycle lanes, and other safety improvements. Caltrans chose each project based on need, effectiveness, and how quickly it could be delivered. By improving safety, more kids are encouraged to walk and bike to school, resulting in healthier lifestyles while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle congestion.

More than \$7 million was awarded to critical safety projects in rural counties. In addition, 82 projects totaling \$28 million will create jobs and benefit at least one low-income school within each project. Some of the notable local projects that received funding in LA County include:

- Two grants of \$450,000 each to the City of Lancaster for safety improvements near the Gifford C. Cole, the John and Jacquelyn Miller, and the Tierra Bonita schools. The projects include pedestrian crosswalks, paths and islands, curb ramps, and creating safety education, encouragement and enforcement programs.
- Two grants of \$450,000 each to the City of Pomona near the Lexington, Cortez, Garey and Ganesha schools. The projects include constructing curb ramps and bike lanes, upgrading traffic signals, installing signalized mid-block crosswalks, speed feedback signs, and roadway striping.
- \$450,000 awards to each of the cities of Claremont, El Monte, Palmdale, Santa Clarita and South Gate. In El Monte, a traffic roundabout will be constructed near the Parkview and the Willard F. Payne elementary schools. Other projects include constructing sidewalks, crosswalks, curb ramps, installing traffic signals, speed feedback signs, flashing beacons, bike racks, and creating safety education, encouragement and enforcement programs.
- A total of \$401,900 was awarded for improvements at nine schools in Temple City, and \$223,000 to the City of Huntington Park for various improvements near Middleton Street Elementary.

To date, the state and federal Safe Routes to School programs have awarded \$472 million for safety projects around California’s schools. To view the entire list projects that received funding: www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/saferoutes/documents/FINALApproved%20SR2S%20Cycle%2010%20Projects%20List.pdf