THE PROJECT
This study will create an Imperial County Safe Routes to Schools Regional Master Plan, including developing, assessing, and prioritizing current school sites infrastructure, identifying travel paths and statistics, and estimating costs and financial feasibility. Imperial County has 18 school districts and 72 schools that serve over 38,000 students. The County’s rural character and extreme weather conditions will require a tailored approach for the regionwide Safe Routes to School Master Plan that addresses the needs and concerns of the County’s residents.

FUNDING AND SCHEDULES
The funds for this project are provided by the Caltrans Community Based Transportation Planning grant program in the amount of $192,500.

This project began in March 2015 with an award to the firm Ryan Snyder and Associates with work including initial outreach to schools throughout the region. The draft report will be available for review and comment by December 2015. This project will be complete in February 2016. Upon completion, the final report will be presented to the Imperial County Transportation Commission (ICTC) for approval.

STATUS
Outreach events in the remaining school districts are scheduled for the end of September through mid October 2015.

PROJECT PARTNERS
Caltrans, the Imperial County Transportation Commission, the Imperial County Board of Education, schools, parents, and students are working cooperatively on this regionwide project.

GOAL
A regionwide Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program will serve to increase the safety and mobility of school students, improve their health by promoting safe alternatives for them to walk or bike to school, and provide improved infrastructure.

Safe Routes to School education for children addresses benefits to personal health. Health benefits often focus on the importance of physical activity such as how the cardiovascular and muscular systems function and how physical activity can strengthen these.

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