

YEAR 2021 CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS FOR SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS

Lee MPO is facilitating the solicitation of proposals in Lee County for Florida Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program funds that will be available to public, private, and charter schools serving Kindergarten through High School. Eligible projects primarily include pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

Lee MPO sign off is needed for all projects in Lee County. This entails MPO Board adoption of a resolution in support of the proposals following their approval by the MPO advisory committees.

Instructions and Program Highlights, Application Form, and FDOT Grant Application Program (GAP) Dashboard for creating a GAP account can be downloaded below:

[**INSTRUCTIONS AND PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**](#)
[**ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION AND RANKINGS CRITERIA**](#)
[**GAP DASHBOARD**](#)

SRTS APPLICATION FORMS:

[**SRTS Application \(Word Version\)**](#)

Application can be also downloaded from GAP on September 1st.

INSTRUCTIONS AND PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Eligible projects include pedestrian and bicycle facilities that will benefit Kindergarten through High Schools. Traffic control devices such as crosswalks, traffic signals, flashing beacons, etc. can be part of a larger pedestrian and bicycle facility.
- Proposed projects must be on located on public property or on permanent public easements with a clear right of way. **Projects cannot be built on school property.**
- Projects must be within a two-mile radius of participating school, and within the school attendance area.
- Read and follow SRTS [Eligibility Evaluation and Ranking Criteria](#) to maximize funding opportunity for your projects.
- Projects are 100% funded.
- A total of \$7 Million is available statewide for infrastructure improvements, with \$1 million typically available for improvements in District 1.
- **Local governments and FDOT can be the only project applicants.**
- For all public schools in Lee County (this may also include public charter schools in the Cape), the **Planning Division** of the School District of Lee County will assist the applicants in completing the applications by liasoning with schools, organizing School-Based (Virtual) SRTS Committee Meetings, developing Student Travel Tally Reports, Parent Surveys, and Maps of 2 Mile Student Zones.
- Private schools with a project proposal on county or city owned roadway must work through the appropriate local government. If the project is on a state highway the school must work through the MPO.
- Local governments will submit applications of proposals within their jurisdictions by uploading in the FDOT GAP by the submission deadline. Local governments without a GAP account may register for one using the [GAP dashboard](#).
- Submission deadline is **5:00 pm, Thursday, December 31, 2020.**
- **MPO sign off is required for all project applications in Lee County.** This will take place following the adoption of a resolution by the MPO Board in support of the applications. **Following is the schedule for MPO committee approval:**
 - Submission of an Information Packet to MPO staff by applicants for inclusion in committee agendas – **Nov 16, 2020.** (Packet will include *project location maps and limits, Student Travel Tally Report and Parent Survey, 2 Mile Student Zone Maps, and cost estimates*)

- MPO Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee Review and Approval – **Nov 24, 2020**
- MPO Technical Advisory Committee Review and Approval - **Dec 3, 2020**
- MPO Citizens Advisory Committee Review and Approval – **Dec 3, 2020**
- Resolution Adoption by MPO Board – **Dec 18, 2020**
- Project applicants will complete the signature pages in each application ensuring all parties have signed the application before uploading the completed applications in GAP.
- Questions on the MPO process and project proposals on state highways shall be directed to Mr. Ron Gogoi at rgogoi@leempo.com, or by phone at (239) 330 2239.
- Public schools with a project proposal on off system (non-state owned) roadways may contact local governments directly, or contact Ms. Cindy Leal Birzuela with the Lee County School District at (239) 335 1342, or by email at cindyl@leeschools.net.
- Private and charter schools with a project proposal may call Ron Gogoi at Lee MPO, or Ms. Mengya (Amy) Ao at FDOT District 1, for assistance. Ms. Ao can be reached at (863) 519 2378, or by email at Mengya.Ao@dot.state.fl.us.
- General questions on the SRTS process may be directed to Ms. Ao. SRTS information can be also obtained from FDOT's web site at www.srtsfl.org.

ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION AND RANKING CRITERIA

Eligibility Evaluation

Applications are reviewed by local FDOT SRTS Coordinator. A proposed project can be declared ineligible for several reasons, such as:

- The Application was not received by the deadline.
- The Application is not fully completed or is missing required attachments.
- A comprehensive planning process was not completed before applying.
- The required Student-In-Class Travel Tally and Parent Survey were not completed before applying or is not attached.
- The project does not comply with SRTS guidelines.
- The project would interfere with or disrupt existing infrastructure or planned improvements.

Ranking Criteria

Some of the selection criteria are:

- Completeness of the School-based SRTS Planning Committee.
- Comprehensiveness of the SRTS planning process (including such tasks as addressing all 5 E's of SRTS and consideration of various solutions to the problems identified.
- Comprehensiveness of the public outreach process, including the affected neighborhoods and PTA/PTO organizations at affected schools.
- High level of interest on the part of the school in supporting walking and bicycling to school, and willingness to participate fully in a comprehensive SRTS program.
- The project does not comply with SRTS guidelines.
- Demonstrated need and community support for the project.
- Potential of the proposed project to increase the number of students walking and bicycling to school.
- Potential to increase the safety of high numbers of students already walking or bicycling to school in hazardous conditions.
- Identification of safety hazards and the potential of the proposed project to reduce child injuries and fatalities.
- Potential for the proposed project to eliminate the need for hazardous or courtesy busing routes.
- Potential for the project to complete a priority pathway, with connections to neighborhoods and public destinations like parks, other schools or libraries.
- Demonstrated need for financial assistance to complete these priority pathway connections.
- Constructability (including clear right of way)
- Consideration and suggestion of alternative locations for projects facing constructability problems.
- Ability of the Applicant or Maintaining Agency to complete the project, or a workable plan to complete the project another way.

Consideration is also given to other factors relating to the proposed project, which are deemed necessary to promote the pedestrian and bicycle safety of students in and around school areas.