



<http://www.saferoutes.ky.gov/>

Bike Louisville's contact for Safe Routes to School is:

**Katie McBride**

Louisville Metro Health Department

[Katie.mcbride@louisvilleky.gov](mailto:Katie.mcbride@louisvilleky.gov)

502-574-6754

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a national program that helps communities improve safety and encourage more children to safely walk and bicycle to school. In August, 2005, the Federal SRTS Program was created by Section 1404 of the federal transportation bill, the *Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users Act* (SAFETEA-LU). Housed in the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Safety, the SRTS Program is funded at \$612 million over five Federal fiscal years (FY 2005–2009). Funding for this program is distributed to the states, who then provide it to local communities through an application process.

In 2007, Meyzeek Middle School and Sanders Elementary School applied for funds through the SRTS School program. Staff performed numerous site visits, conducted Neighborhood Walking Surveys with students, faculty, and staff/administration, and prepared funding applications with work plans for each school. These two applications were both successful, and over \$200,000 in funding was awarded to these two schools. Due to numerous administrative challenges, both schools are still awaiting receipt of their SRTS funding and have yet to begin their programs.

Bike Louisville staff worked alongside Kentuckiana Regional Planning and Development Agency (KIPDA) and Jefferson County Public School (JCPS) staff again in 2008 to prepare and submit two SRTS applications for Newburg Middle School and Bowen Elementary School. Newburg was awarded funds for their project, but Bowen was not. Newburg is still awaiting receipt of funding for their project. In 2009, a team again worked to submit SRTS applications for Rangeland and Portland Elementary. The schools are awaiting award notification.

Staff should continue to work with JCPS, the Mayor's Office and Public Works to develop an approach to SRTS applications which is comprehensive and efficient. Two schools per-cycle remains a realistic objective, but the process of identifying schools and determining needed improvements should start earlier and should directly engage the city's professional traffic operations staff. SRTS will become an ever-more important source of funding for key bike/ped improvements in coming years as general transportation budgets tighten. There is no direct cost to Metro for developing and submitting these applications.

SRTS projects should incorporate the 5 E's: education, engineering, enforcement, encouragement, and evaluation.