

# ODOT Funding Package Resource Library

---

## **Safe Routes to School: Construction Program**

The ODOT Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Construction Program is a competitive grant program modeled after the federal program of the same name. This program awards grants to Tribes, local governments, transit and school districts, and ODOT for projects that help keep kids safe by addressing critical walking and rolling infrastructure gaps around schools. 2 Project applicants are asked to match award funds through a 40% cash match; this match rate can be reduced to ~10% or 0%. For some communities, a match requirement can be a barrier to utilizing the SRTS program.

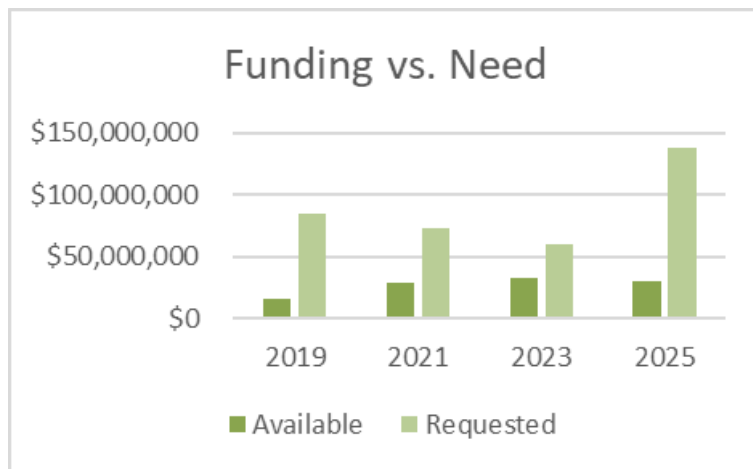
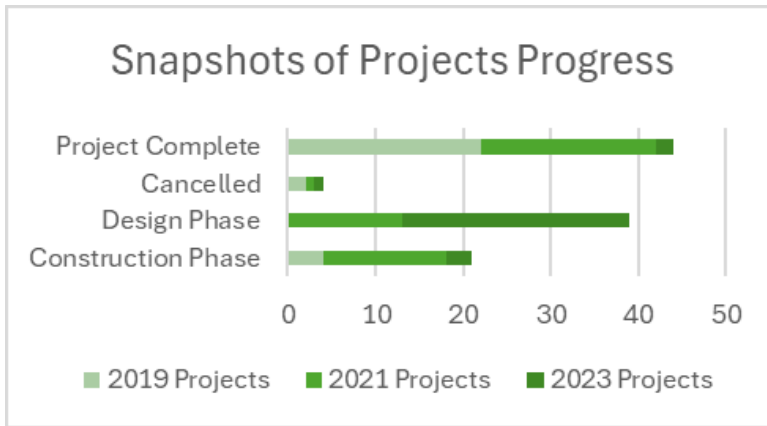
### Funding

Prior to passage of House Bill 2017, the SRTS program was funded through one-time allocations of state or federal funds. HB 2017 established an annual State Highway Fund dedication of \$15 million, providing ongoing and reliable funding for the first time in the Program's history. For the most recent round of SRTS awards, an additional one-time \$40 million allocation of federal funds enabled more project awards across the state.

### Statewide Needs for Safe Routes

The Oregon SRTS [Network](#) estimates \$1 billion in SRTS construction needs in Oregon to improve safe access to schools. The program has an equity focus, prioritizing rural and urban areas identified as transportation disadvantaged. Historically, requests for funding exceed the funding capacity by nearly 3:1 – demonstrating high need and capacity across the state to deliver these critical safety investments. An additional investment of about \$35 million per year above the current \$15 million allocation will complete safe connections to kindergarten-8th grade schools in the next 30 years.

Notably, while project eligibility was expanded to include projects within a two-mile radius of a school, rural and Tribal communities who primarily utilize bussing are not able to access the SRTS program for projects connecting exclusively to bus stops.



Creating Safer Routes, Healthier Communities

Since 2018, ODOT has distributed roughly \$76.7 million to help communities build critically needed infrastructure. Approximately 105 construction projects have been funded to date of which ~40 are complete. With an increase in SRTS funding, more projects will be completed, ensuring safe and accessible ways for students to get to school without relying solely on driving. The program will fund an additional \$30 million in projects by January 2025. Below are some highlights of SRTS successes across the state.

Project Examples

*Competitive Construction Program*

(87.5% of program funding): Since 2018 through October 2024, ~95 projects funded and ~35 completed. Funds critical school-safety construction projects to help keep children walking and rolling safely on public roadways. These can include crosswalks, sidewalks, bike lanes, median refuge islands, flashing beacons.

**Example: Lane County**

- Grant: \$931,616
- Scope: Added new a pedestrian refuge island and added new sidewalks.

*Rapid Response Construction Program*

(10% of program funding): [Since 2018 through October 2024, ~10 projects funded and ~5 completed.](#) Funds an unexpected opportunity or an area with a recent traffic related injury/fatality to a person walking or biking.

**Example: City of Medford**

- Grant: \$475,779
- Scope: Installed a 2-way parking protected bicycle facility to address a location where collisions with motorists injured bicyclists within a half mile of two middle school.

*Project Identification Program*

(2.5% of program funding): 71 [SRTS Plans funded and 62 completed.](#) Technical assistance that identifies construction projects and education programs that address barriers to students walking and rolling to school in a SRTS Plan. Eleven engineering assistance projects funded and seven completed. Projects provide design services to support communities in applying for competitive construction funding. Seven surface treatment projects supported with design and planning support, five installed.

**Example: [Winston Safe Routes to School 2023 Plan](#)**

- ODOT worked with the City of Winston, ODOT Region 3, Winston-Dillard School District, Douglas County and the school community to [identify solutions](#), like sidewalks and crossings that address barriers to students walking and rolling to Douglas High School, McGovern Elementary School, Winston Middle School and Brockway Elementary School.