

# Resources and Funding Opportunities for School Siting and Safe Routes to School

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NCTCOG

# Overview

- Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Funding for “Transportation Alternatives” and Safe Routes to School
- Safe Routes to School Training – May 2019
- Educational materials for students and parents
- NCTCOG’s School Siting Guidebook
- NCTCOG’s School Siting and Coordination Fact Sheets (*COMING SOON*)
- NCTCOG technical assistance available

# TxDOT's Call for Projects for Safe Routes to School and Transportation Alternatives Infrastructure

- NOW OPEN – Preliminary Application Deadline is April 12, 2019
- Who's Eligible to Apply – Location Restrictions:
  - SRTS: Cities/Counties/School Districts – anywhere in the state, within 2 miles of a K-8<sup>th</sup> grade school
  - Transportation Alternatives: Cities/Counties/School Districts – nonurban areas only (population areas of 5,000 or less)
- Eligible Projects (both project categories):
  - Sidewalk improvements
  - Shared use paths and bicycle infrastructure improvements
  - Projects that improve safety for non-motorized transportation

- Local Match Requirement: SRTS = 0%, Transportation Alternatives = 20%
- Amount Available:
  - SRTS = \$8.7 million
  - Transportation Alternatives = \$10.6 million
- Minimum/maximum project amount: no restrictions, but funding is limited so TxDOT may request that larger projects be split into smaller segments.
- Allowable Costs:
  - SRTS: design and construction
  - Transportation Alternatives: construction only

## Evaluation Criteria:

- Safety: Demonstrating need for safety improvements and appropriate safety countermeasures.
- Connectivity: Improves routes to destinations of interest.
- Quality of Life: Improves mode choice in underserved communities.
- Community Support: Public outreach demonstrates positive community support.
- Project Readiness: Ability to advance the project to construction immediately; feasibility of project; detailed cost estimates.
- Planning: Demonstrates link to formal transportation planning efforts.

- Recommended that you coordinate with your TxDOT district representative before April 12, so they can expect your application.
- TxDOT Fort Worth District:  
Phillip Hays, [Phillip.Hays@txdot.gov](mailto:Phillip.Hays@txdot.gov), (817) 370-6591
- TxDOT Dallas District:  
Maher Ghanayem, [Maher.Ghanayem@txdot.gov](mailto:Maher.Ghanayem@txdot.gov), (214) 320-6691

<https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/public-transportation/bicycle-pedestrian.html>

# Regional Safe Routes to School Training – May 2019

- Safe Routes to School 1-day training for engineers, planners, school district officials, and school staff.
- Learn about:
  - Engineering and encouragement strategies
  - How to conduct a Walk Audit
  - Developing Safe Routes to School Action Plans
  - Prioritizing schools and projects
  - Stakeholder engagement

# Educational Materials for Students and Parents

**LOOK OUT TEXANS**  
BIKE WALK DRIVE SAFELY

HOME ABOUT SAFETY TIPS NORTH TEXANS' STORIES SCHOOL RESOURCES VIDEOS

Teacher and Parent Resources

**3rd-5th Grade School Kit**

**CLASS ACTIVITIES**

**SAFE BICYCLING & WALKING**  
Lesson Plan • Activities • Resources

**Request a FREE School Kit**

**TRAIN TRACKS.**  
LOOK AND LISTEN FOR A TRAIN.

**SAFER JOURNEY VIDEOS AND QUIZ (20 minutes)**

**14. When you're riding your bicycle, why is it safer to ride in a straight line rather than weaving back and forth?**

A. Because you could get dizzy if you weave back and forth.  
B. Because drivers will not know when you are trying to go if you ride all over the street.  
C. Because your bike might break.

Protecting our region's children is a key focus of the Look Out Texans campaign. Free school kits include resources to educate elementary and middle school-aged students about pedestrian and bicycle safety.

[www.LookOutTexans.org](http://www.LookOutTexans.org)

## Safe Routes to School

Helping kids walk, bike and roll to school safely

### School Zone Safety Tips

Across North Texas, hundreds of thousands of students go to school each day. Keep these tips in mind to help our students stay safe.

- Slow down and obey speed limits.** Did You Know: A pedestrian hit by a car going 20 mph has a 90% survival rate. At 30 mph it drops to 50%.
- Watch for NO PARKING signs.** Don't park in bus loading zones or near intersections, driveways, and crosswalks.
- Yield to people in crosswalks.** It's the law.
- Carpool with other families.** Help reduce traffic and harmful pollution in school zones.
- Reduce idling.** Did You Know: An idling vehicle produces over 60% more emissions than a vehicle driving at 20 mph?
- Drop your child off at the curb on the school side of the street.**
- Don't be that driver.** Don't put students at risk! No texting while driving, making U-turns, or passing other vehicles in the school zone.
- Walk or roll to school.**

### School Bus Safety

When the red lights are flashing or the stop sign is out, all vehicles on the same road **MUST STOP**.

Motorists **MUST WAIT** until the school bus begins moving.

**IT'S STATE LAW** (up to \$1,250 fine)

The area 10 feet around a school bus is the most dangerous for children. Stop far enough back to allow them space to safely enter and exit the bus.

You **MUST STOP** on roadways with painted lines. You **CAN GO** if there is a physical barrier separating your side of the roadway from the school bus.

For more information visit [LookOutTexans.org](http://LookOutTexans.org) and [EngineOilNorthTexas.org](http://EngineOilNorthTexas.org)



# NCTCOG School Siting Guidebook

Download at: [www.nctcog.org/schools](http://www.nctcog.org/schools)

- Steps for improving city-school district communication and coordination
- Strategies and criteria for siting “community-oriented schools”
- Local best-practice examples
- An overview of state regulations impacting school facility planning

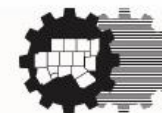
1-page summaries *COMING SOON* on improving coordination and siting community-oriented schools

## PLANNING FOR COMMUNITY-ORIENTED SCHOOLS

A Guide to School Siting in North Texas



2017



North Central Texas  
Council of Governments

# Technical Assistance Available

Depending on staff availability, NCTCOG can provide a range of technical assistance services to local communities:

- Speaking at City Council or School Board meetings
- Bringing together school districts, local governments, and transportation agencies to discuss school siting or transportation challenges
- Providing support for developing projects
- Providing technical assistance and best practice information on school siting/Safe Routes to School projects
- Walk/Bike to School Day promotion

For inquiries, please contact Kathryn Rush at [krush@nctcog.org](mailto:krush@nctcog.org), or 817-704-5601.

# Next Steps: Workshop Survey/Evaluation

- Thoughts on this workshop
- Topic ideas for future workshops
- Resource needs

Questions?

# Thank you!

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