



Safe Routes to School - Round Table Discussion

Sponsored by Initiative for Healthy Infrastructure

State University of New York - University at Albany

November 18th 12pm to 4pm Arts & Sciences Building AS123

RSVP at our website, <http://www.albany.edu/~ihi> or by email at, ihi@albany.edu

Some Facts and Figures:

- During the 2001- 2002 School year approximately **2 million** students were transported to and from school by more than **700 school districts** in New York at a total cost of **\$1.9 billion** dollars, nearly \$1 billion which was reimbursed through state aid paid by the department.
- During the 1998-1999 school year, New York State transported nearly **2 Million** students to and from school throughout more than **700 school districts** at a total cost of **\$1.5 Billion**.
- During the 1998-1999 school year, school districts **outside of New York City** transported approximately **1.4 Million** students to and from school at a cost of **\$1.1 Billion**.
- The Average transportation cost varied markedly throughout the state.
 - Average cost per student \$680 in the state
 - 27 districts average more than \$1,500 per student
 - 12 districts average more than \$3,000 per student
 - 41 districts average less than \$400 per student

Source: New York State Office of the Comptroller- State Education Department Report on School Transportation Costs 2004 Audit update and 2000 Audit

Federal Legislation:

- SAFETEA-LU Safe Accountable Flexible Equitable Transportation Equity Act – Legacy for Users, passed August 2005
 - Appropriates approximately \$612 million over five years to make it safer for children to walk or bicycle to school.
 - Funding for safe routes to school will be distributed to states in proportion to the number of primary and secondary school students in the state, with no state receiving less than \$1 million per year.
 - State DOT are to administer the program, NYS has not appointed a director currently
 - 10% to 30% can be used for education
 - Each state must appoint a Safe Routes to School coordinator

Source: SAFETEA-LU Bill and America Bikes

State Law and Legislation:

- Law for Safe Routes to School- Chapter 444, Section 4, Subdivision 35, Section 1
 - “A Safe Routes to School program will be established to eliminate or reduce physical impediments to primary and secondary school-aged children walking or bicycling to school”
 - The Transportation Department will approve funding for authorized projects made upon application by the project sponsor, for constructing, reconstructing, enhancing, improving, replacing, reconditioning, restoring, rehabilitating or preserving crosswalks, sidewalks, bicycle lanes and traffic calming measures within two miles of a primary school and three miles from a secondary school. Projects would have to have a ten-year service life.
 - **Funding-** No Dedicated Fund

Source: NY State Law Chapter 444 Section 4, Subdivision 35, Section 1

- School Safety Zone Law – Section 3635-b of the Education Law
 - If a child lives within a school safety zone (which is a designated area within the school) the pupil may be provided transportation if their most direct walking route to school will transverse a hazardous zone.
- NYS Traffic Calming Law Vehicle and Traffic Laws - Title 8, Article 39, Section 1642, Paragraph 26
 - Establishment of maximum speed limits below twenty-five miles per hour at which motor vehicles may proceed on or along designated highways within such city for the explicit purpose of implementing traffic calming measures as such term is defined herein;

Source: Hodge, Kit (Campaign Director for Transportation Alternatives) White Paper “Legislation for Healthy Kids, Healthy School – Inside and Out”. April 2005 SUNY Albany IHI Safe Routes to School Symposium

New York Safe Routes to School Programs:

- **Bronx, New York (link to Bronx safe routes to school program)**
 - Traffic calming and pedestrian safety engineering program
 - Project began in 1997, with support from the office of the Bronx Borough President and the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee
 - Collected surveys on traffic hazards; worked with NYC DOT to change signage, signal timing
 - Has completed traffic calming plans for 38 schools; partial installations at all
 - NYC DOT took over program in October 2001 and expand citywide, via RBA Group and Urbitran consultants (\$2.5 million contract)

National Safe Routes to School Programs:

There are several safe routes to school programs that are working successfully throughout the United States, Canada, and Great Britain: Arlington and Boston, Massachusetts, Chicago, Illinois, Florida, Great Britain, Marin County, California, Portland, Oregon, Santa Ana, California, Toronto, Ontario.

Source: "Safe Routes to School Practice and Promise" Published by the Center for Health Training and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration