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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Nebraska Department of Roads awards \$2M in Safe Routes to School federal funding**

The Nebraska Department of Roads has awarded more than \$2 million in federal Safe Routes to School program funds to communities for 23 statewide projects to encourage and better enable children to walk and bike safely to school.

The program is focused on promoting physical activity and improving health, making routes to school safer and reducing traffic congestion around schools by encouraging children to walk or ride bicycles.

The program is 100 percent funded by the federal government and requires no matching funds by local entities. The funds benefit elementary and middle school children and are divided into two categories: infrastructure (sidewalk and street-crossing improvements, traffic diversion and bicycle facilities) and non-infrastructure (promotional materials, student bicycle and pedestrian safety education sessions, and encouragement programs).

### **Funding was awarded to the following agencies:**

- City of Kearney Kids Safe Trek to School, \$250,000
- Holdrege Public Schools Walk & Bike to School Program (awarded both categories of funding), \$187,486
- Lexington Public Schools Street and Bike Safety Program, \$23,554
- Wallace School District School Route Sidewalk, \$113,508
- Grand Island Walnut Middle School Safe Routes to School Program (awarded both categories of funding), \$269,644
- City of Hastings Safe Routes Public Awareness Program, \$28,370
- Maywood Public Schools Tiger Paw Trail (awarded both categories of funding), \$140,200

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- McCook Public Schools Walk to School Program, \$8,761
- Papillion – Rumsey Station Elementary Safe Routes to School Program (awarded both categories of funding), \$127,110
- Lincoln’s Elliott School Walking and Biking Program, \$7,575
- Springview Safety Program, Designated Routes (awarded both categories of funding), \$119,310
- Yutan Trail System – Phase 1, \$243,600
- Friend Walk & Bike to School Education & Promotion, \$1,550
- Auburn Middle School Pedestrian Crossing Improvement, \$77,772
- O’Neill – Hynes Avenue School Route Sidewalk , \$93,538
- Orleans Safe Routes to School, \$85,830
- Bellevue – Chandler View Elementary School Route Sidewalk, \$143,489
- Osmond Community School Route Sidewalk, \$117,266

Through the 2005 passage of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy of Users, Congress designated \$612 million toward developing the National Safe Routes to School Program. Money is distributed to states to fund education, planning and implementation of Safe Routes to School plans and programs.

For more information about the projects listed here or the Safe Routes Nebraska program, visit [www.SafeRoutesNE.com](http://www.SafeRoutesNE.com).

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