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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Nebraska Department of Roads Awards Federal Funding for Safe Routes to School

The Nebraska Department of Roads has awarded approximately \$450,000 in federal Safe Routes to School Program funds to communities for seven 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:

- Public Health Solutions – “No Child Left on their Behind”, \$113,536 (awarded non-infrastructure funding on behalf of Beatrice Public Schools)
- Panhandle Public Health District – Hemingford “Just Move It”, \$6,854 (awarded on non-infrastructure funding on behalf of the community of Hemingford)
- Activate Omaha – Freiker Omaha, \$42,675 (awarded non-infrastructure funding for three Omaha-area schools)
- City of Clarkson – Clarkson Bicycle Safety Program, \$1,751 (awarded non-infrastructure funding)
- Village of Howells – Howells Safe Routes, \$2,711 (awarded non-infrastructure funding)
- Village of Diller – Diller/Odell Elementary School Safe Routes, \$36,773 (awarded infrastructure funding)
- City of Clarkson – Clarkson Safe Routes to School, \$248,249 (awarded infrastructure funding)

#MORE#

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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