Frequently Asked Questions

This document will be updated with questions received during the application period and from grant webinars.

Updated: 3/8/23

What if we have a low STEPP (Student Transportation Equity for Priority Populations) score?

- Our intention is to raise up applications from under resourced areas and direct funding to priority populations to improve safety and wellbeing. However, applications that show a community is ready to launch a SRTS program, partners interested or convening on SRTS, or a timely need may provide strong scores for those communities with lower STEPP scores.

Do we need a Safe Routes to School Plan?

- We strongly encourage applications that support implementation of strategies from a SRTS plan. However, we know not all communities have the time and resources to complete a plan or had successful awards of a SRTS plan. For those without a plan, clearly describe the need for the proposed project and how the idea was developed from community engagement efforts.

Can we fund staff time with Boost grant?

- All funds for the Boost grant must be spent by June 30, 2025. If staff time is needed and they are able to complete their duties by June 30, 2025 it is an allowable expense.

Can SRTS boost grant can be used for activities lead by the City but promoted to students in the school district or do the events need to be lead by the school district?

- Yes, a city or other entity can apply for SRTS funds to support biking and walking for youth in coordination with schools. For example, a city could apply for funds for a bike rodeo or a bicycle camp through its recreation program and partner with the school for promotion or use of an existing school bicycle fleet.

What if we haven't completed student tallies or parent surveys for our School district?

- The School data application question should be available from data a Student Transportation Director has for the number of students within walk zone, students bussed, and hazard busing.

If we are doing a districtwide project, do we need to provide data for each School?

- Yes, each School that will be covered under the plan or project should be listed with school travel data. Please use the additional Excel form to list more tan 5 schools on your application.

Will Boost fund a crossing guard for a state highway and city street crossing for arrival and dismissal, if so how long?

- Location of crossing guard does not matter for funding. Funding could support time, materials, training, etc. A [crossing guard training](#) is available on the MnSRTS website.

On average, what is the typical funding range for a Boost grant?

- Funded projects can range from a minimum of $5,000 to a maximum of $50,000. This is typically for one application which may be either per school or per school district depending on the project proposed.

Does this grant require matching funds?

- No, this is 100% funding for a project. We do not require a match, however its often best practice to leverage local funds and resources to maximize a project and grant award.

Are law enforcement resources still eligible for funding? Would technology like flashing driver feedback speed signs be eligible?

- Funded projects can include Law Enforcement partners to support any of the "E's" like education, encouragement, or engagement projects. We would consider flashing driver feedback speed signs to be an encouragement strategy and would encourage this to not be connected with an enforcement wave as that may impact Equity efforts.

Can we fund any signage with a Boost grant?

- We cannot fund any signage that will be on a road authority's right of way as that would be considered infrastructure which is ineligible with this funding source. Signage that would be on private property of the school facility like a 'no idling' or 'no cell phones' or 'bus only' would be eligible expenses to improve school arrival/dismissal and safety for walkers and bikers. Other signage like sandwich boards, posters, banners or yard signs are allowable expenses.

Can a community or school district submit more than one application?

- At this time, we do not have limits on the number of applications a school district or city can submit. We recognize that different schools within a school district, private schools, and charter schools have different needs to advance walking and biking mode shift for youth that require separate applications. However, the applications will be competing against each other during the scoring and review process and submitting more than one application does not increase the likelihood that a school district will receive funding. We encourage school districts to apply annually if there are larger needs and to consider packaging multiple strategies into one application.

Can a boost grant fund snow removal equipment to help maintain clear sidewalks and paths for students to walk to school?

- Unfortunately, this grant funding cannot cover snow removal equipment purchases. MnSRTS recognizes what a significant issue this is, MnDOT and our partners at MN Dept of Health created a [snow removal guide](#) with some different ideas and case studies from across the state that may be helpful for communities to identify other solutions.

Are pre-K program eligible for boost grants?

- While pre-K programs can be included in a boost grant when they are part of a larger campus (e.g. pk-8) or program, stand along pre-K programs are not eligible for SRTS Boost funding.