

**Subject:** City receives grant funds for Safe Routes to Schools program  
**Date:** Friday, November 7, 2014 at 8:28:18 AM Central Standard Time  
**From:** City Hall email  
**To:** Megan Gilliland



## Information

[City Calendar](#)  
[News Releases](#)  
[Monthly Newsletter](#)  
[Email Subscriptions](#)

## Connect

[Feedback](#)  
[Contact Us](#)  
[Request a City Service](#)  
[Social Media](#)

### City receives grant funds for Safe Routes to Schools program

The Kansas Department of Transportation announced this week the City of Lawrence will receive a \$15,000 grant to develop a Safe Routes to Schools plan to increase walkability and bikeability to schools in Lawrence. This grant is considered a Phase I grant and allows the city, and its partners, to develop plans for each school and make recommendations for improvements.

“This is great news for our school network,” said Chuck Soules, director of Public Works for the City of Lawrence. “We’re glad we could facilitate this grant application and we look forward to working with the community and our partners to develop a comprehensive plan that we can put into action in the future.”

The city’s partners, the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department, USD 497, the Lawrence-Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Organization, LiveWell Lawrence and Lawrence Schools Foundation, have each agreed to contribute either funding or in-kind donations of staff time to develop the plan. After the Phase I plan is complete, the city can apply for additional funding from KDOT, and leverage other local funding resources, to implement improvements in routes to schools.

“There is evidence that kids who walk and bike to school are more active. As a result, they are healthier and perform better in school,” said Chris Tilden, director of Community Health for the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department. “We are excited to be part of a local effort to help more kids walk and bike to school.”

The Safe Routes to Schools program is a federal program and was created in 2005. SRTS has several purposes:

- Enable and encourage children, including those who are disabled, to walk or bicycle to school;
- Make walking or biking to school safe and appealing;
- Facilitate projects that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption and air pollution in the vicinity of schools.

The city’s application for the Safe Routes to Schools grant was supported by numerous local organizations including the Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods, Lawrence Pedestrian Coalition, Douglas County Community Foundation, Douglas County Commissioners, Lawrence-Douglas County Bicycle Advisory Committee, Sustainability Action Network, Lawrence Chamber, Lawrence Memorial Hospital, and local businesses and civic organizations.

## City of Lawrence

City Hall, 6 E. 6th Street, Lawrence, KS 66044  
[\(785\) 832-3000](tel:(785)832-3000) | [cityhall@lawrenceks.org](mailto:cityhall@lawrenceks.org) | [lawrenceks.org](http://lawrenceks.org)