

May 24, 2016

A Closer Look at Safe Routes to School Programs in Rural California: A Guide for Communities and Partners



Active Transportation Resource Center

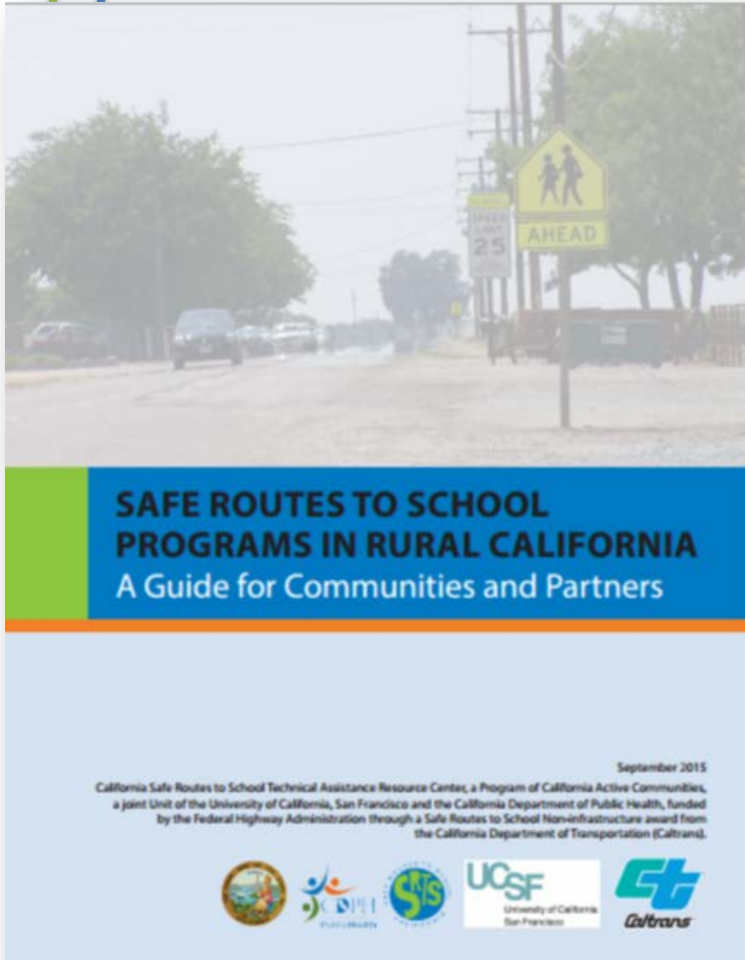
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- Q & A period will be at the end
 - Questions are encouraged! Enter questions into the **chat** feature any time.



A Closer Look at Safe Routes to School Programs in Rural California: A Guide for Communities and Partners

Located on CAsaferoutestoschool.org website :

www.CAsaferoutestoschool.org/safe-routes-to-school-programs-in-rural-california-a-guide-for-communities-and-partners/

Objectives



By the end of this webinar, participants will:

- Gain a better understanding of the Prioritization Tool in the *Safe Routes to School Programs in Rural California: A Guide for Communities and Partners* resource
- Learn from a local examples about approaches to implementing SRTS in rural communities

Today's Speakers



- Justine Hearn, California Department of Public Health, Active Transportation Safety Program
- Jenny Weiss, Natural Resources Services Division, Redwood Community Action Agency
- Stephanie Nathan, Prevention, Policy and Planning unit at the Merced County Department of Public Health

Introduction

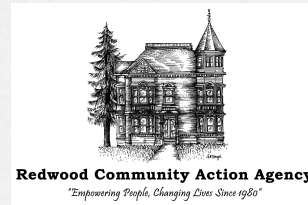


- Created to address the unique needs of rural communities in developing SRTS programs
- Highlights from rural communities throughout document that illustrate successes
- SRTS Programs in Rural California Overview; Strategies for Successful SRTS Programs in Rural California; Tools for Improving Infrastructure Around Rural Schools



SAFE ROUTES
TO SCHOOL

Programs in Rural California



Jenny Weiss, Senior Planner, Natural Resources Services, RCAA

Highlights



Rural Prioritization Tool

- Metrics Tool
- School SR2S inventory survey
- Spatial Component

Remote Drop-Off

- Logistics
- Including school bus riders
- Sustainability

Rural Communities Have Unique Challenges



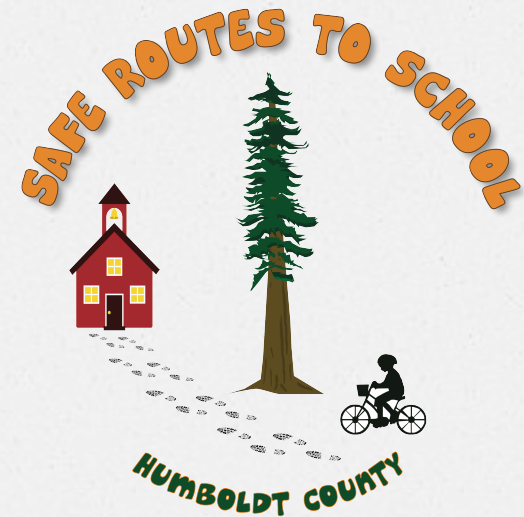
SR2S Prioritization Tool

A means of determining which schools have the highest need and capacity to support SR2S programs.



SR2S Prioritization Tool

Formation of the
Humboldt Countywide Safe Routes to School Task Force



Prioritization based on:

SR2S Prioritization Tool

Data Source	Criteria Description	Measured by	Values	Maximum Score
School Readiness Criteria				
School Inventory Calls	School administration support	Presence/Absence	Present = 5 Absent = 0	5
School Inventory Calls	SR2S activities/discussions/interest	Presence/Absence	Ongoing = 10 Present = 5 Absent = 0	10
School Inventory Calls	SR2S champion present at the school	Presence/Absence	Present = 5 Absent = 0	5
School Inventory Calls	Active school/parent support organization (e.g. PTO/PTA, Booster Club, school site council)	Presence/Absence	Present = 5 Absent = 0	5
School Inventory Calls	SR2S district or school policy adopted	Presence/Absence	Present = 5 Absent = 0	5
SR2S Parent Surveys	Completed SR2S parent surveys	Annual Reporting	Present = 5 Absent = 0	5
Internal Need Criteria				
Ed-Data	Free & Reduced Lunch	Schools scored based on percentage of students eligible as reported	80-100% or greater = 8 60-79% = 6 40-59% = 4 20-39% = 2 0-19% = 0	8
CA Dept of Education	Aerobic Fitness (% meeting Healthy Fitness Zone)	Schools are scored based on percentage of students achieving the benchmark fitness level	70-100% = 0 40-70% = 3 0-40% = 5	5
Ed-Data	Student Enrollment	Schools are scored based total student enrollment	Above 300 = 5 101-300 = 3 Under 100 = 1	5

- **School Readiness** – SR2S involvement/ interest, Admin & Parent Support, Policy
- **Internal Need** - Free/reduced lunch, Aerobic Fitness, Enrollment

School Readiness

SR2S Prioritization Tool School Inventory Questions

1. Is your school familiar with Safe Routes to Schools? (y/n) *(If you are not familiar with Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S), it is a program that focuses on increasing child safety and skills so they can get to school by walking and bicycling.)*
2. Who in the school administration would be willing to work with us and other schools on these issues? *(We are simply looking for a contact person we can share information with and/or help with ped/bike safety questions and concerns.)*
3. Have you engaged in SR2S programs or had discussions as a school? (y/n?)
If yes, describe program (i.e. Participate in Walk to School Days, Had traffic calming/infrastructure improvements)
4. Is there a SR2S (or walking/bicycling) champion at your school? (Is there a parent, teacher, or administrator who is active/enthusiastic about helping kids safely walk/bike to school? Can I have their contact information?)
5. Have there been concerns around child health or kids getting enough physical activity?
6. Are you aware of lessons/activities taught through P.E. or Health Education that focus on Physical Activity?
7. Have there been safety concerns around kids traveling to school?
8. Are there safety or health concerns around the pick-up/drop-off zone?
9. Does your school have an active PTA/PTO or engaged parent group?
If yes, what is his/her name? Do you have contact information?
10. Do you know how many kids walk or bike to your school?
11. What are the main walking routes to your school?
12. Does your school have bicycle parking? Is it covered/protected?
13. Does your school have a crossing guard? At which road crossing?
If no, have you had a crossing guard in the past? At which road crossing?
14. Are you aware of school district, city, or informal policies around transportation of children to your school? *(i.e. Supportive SR2S policies, limits on car idling, pick-up/drop-off location procedures, limits to walking/bicycling/skateboarding, etc.)*
15. What afterschool programs occur at your school?
Who runs the program/s?
Is physical activity incorporated into this program (if not obvious, like basketball)

- **Determined by school inventory phone calls**



Internal Need



- **Based on publicly available data**

- ✓ **Free/reduced meals**
- ✓ **Fitness data**
- ✓ **Enrollment**



Prioritization based on:

Data Source	Criteria Description	Measured by	Values	Maximum Score
External Need Criteria				
School Inventory Calls	Pedestrian facilities	Score based on the presence or absence of dedicated pedestrian facilities leading to the school campus.	Absent = 5 Present but insufficient = 3 Present = 0	5
Humboldt County Road Centerline Shapefile	Posted Speed limit	Speed limit of school roads and speed limits of roads intersecting within 660 ft	School on a road over 35mph = 10 Intersects Over 35mph = 5 25 or under and no intersections = 1	5
HCAOG Regional Trails Master Plan Shapefiles	Existing bicycle and trail facilities	Score based on the presence or absence of dedicated bicycle facilities within 660 ft buffer leading to the school campus. Includes only Class I and II facilities and trails.	Absent = 5 Present = 0	5
2012 Census or American Communities Survey (ACS)	Percentage of carless households	Scored are based on the percentage of carless households per census area in which the surveyed school is located. Classification performed by natural breaks (Jenks Method).	13-17% = 5 9-12% = 4 6-8% = 3 3-5% = 2 0-2% = 1	5
UC Berkeley SafeTREC Transportation Injury Mapping System (TIMS) / Caltrans SWITRS	Bicycle and Pedestrian Collision Frequency	Based on the total number of bike or pedestrian involved collisions within .5 mile buffer, scores assigned based on natural breaks in the data	25-71 = 5 6-24 = 3 1-5 = 1 0 = 0	5
			Total Readiness Score	35
			Total Need Score	43
			Total Possible Score	78
			Adjusted score for schools without Fitness Data	Total Adjusted Score
				73

- **External Need** – Ped/bike facilities, Posted speed limit, Carless households, Collision Data

SR2S Prioritization Tool

External Need

Spatial Data Component



SR2S Prioritization Tool

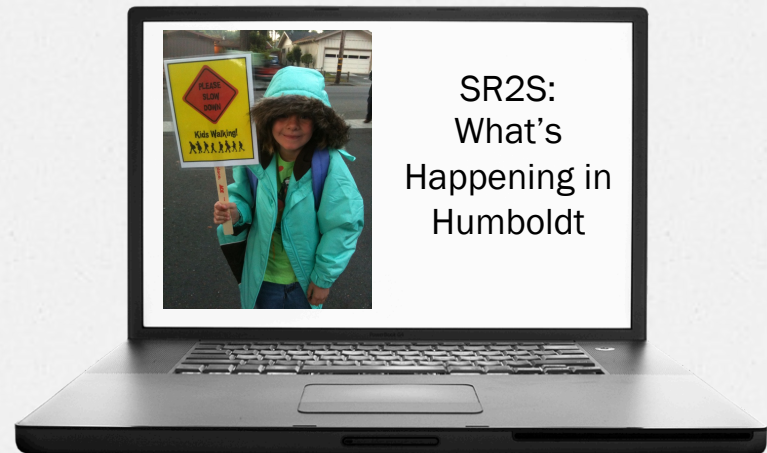
- Collaborative process
- Allows jurisdictions to apply for funding on behalf of high ranking schools
- Introduce rural schools to SR2S
- Make grant applications more competitive



SR2S Prioritization Tool

<http://hcaog.net/documents/safe-routes-school-whats-happening-humboldt>

- Parent Survey Reports
- Prioritization Tool
- Walk Audit Reports
- Task Force meeting agendas and minutes



SR2S Prioritization Tool

Successes!

- Cycle 10 State SR2S funding for I at Grant
- Cycle 1 ATP funding for NI program at Eureka City Schools Mobility Education Program
- Cycle 1 ATP funding for I-NI program at Toddy Thomas MS in Fortuna
- Cycle 1 ATP funding for I-NI program for Remote Drop Off at Lafayette Elementary School in Eureka, CA.

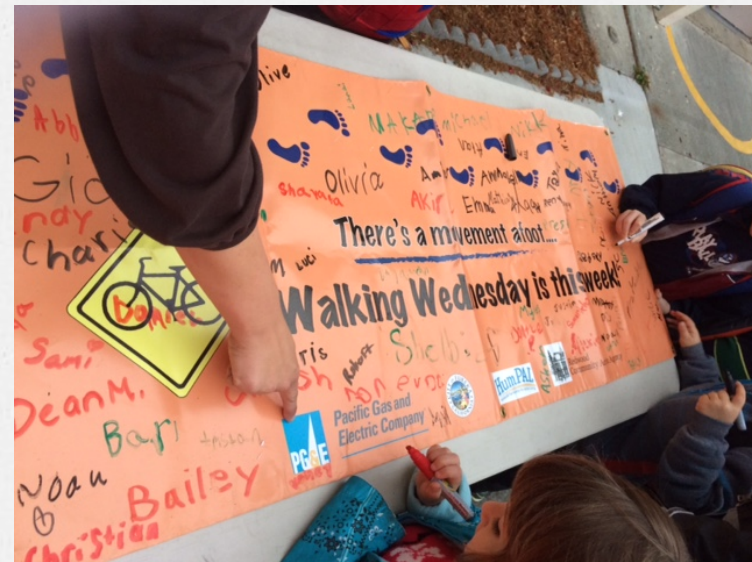
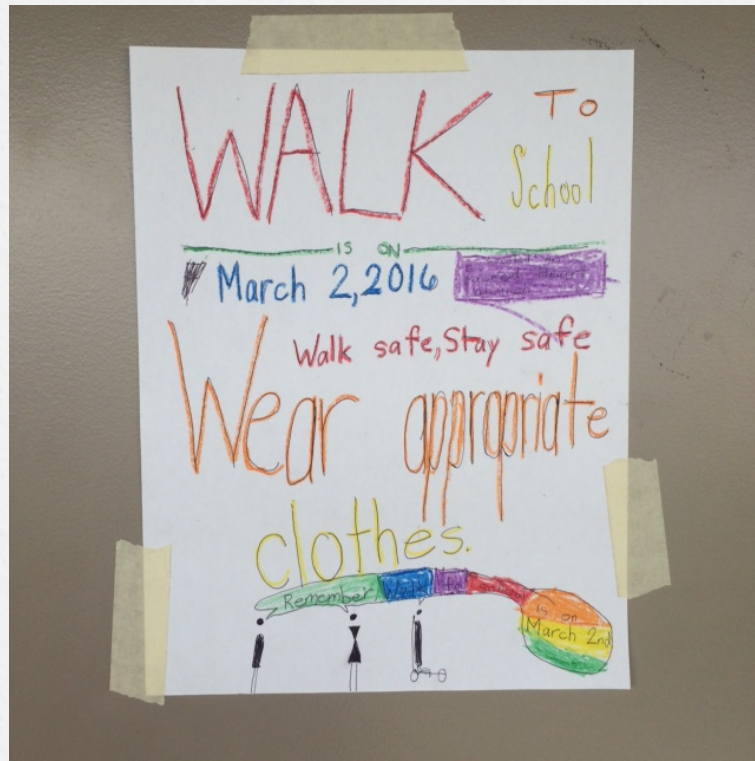
SR2S Prioritization Tool

Lafayette Elementary Remote Drop Off Program



SR2S Prioritization Tool

Lafayette Elementary Remote Drop Off Program



SR2S Prioritization Tool

Lafayette Elementary Remote Drop Off Program



SR2S Prioritization Tool

Lafayette Elementary Remote Drop Off Program



SR2S Prioritization Tool

Successes!



- Cycle 2 ATP funding for I/NI programs for **6 additional schools/communities!**

THANK YOU!



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Redwood Community Action Agency
"Empowering People, Changing Lives Since 1980"



Natural Resources Services
Restoring the Balance
a Division of
Redwood Community Action Agency

Partnerships in rural Merced County lead to a SRTS Policy

Safe Routes to School
Webinar
May 24, 2016



Stehanie Nathan , MPH
Public Health Program Manager
Merced County Department of Public Health

Disclosure

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Characteristics of Merced County

- Located in the San Joaquin Valley of California
- 6 cities and 18 unincorporated communities
- Rural and agricultural
- Majority Hispanic
- Diverse/young population
- High unemployment and poverty
- High rates of overweight obesity



Winton

- ⦿ Small, unincorporated community
- ⦿ Demographics: Over 70% Hispanic
- ⦿ Challenges: high rates of obesity, crime, loose dogs, poor infrastructure (e.g., limited sidewalks and unmaintained roads)
- ⦿ One school district:
 - 3 elementary schools
 - 1 middle school
 - Approximately 2,000 students



The Winton Story

Funding

- CA4Health Community Transformation Grant
- Partnerships to Improve Community Health

Community Partners

- Winton School District
- Cultiva La Salud
- Lifeline CDC

Stakeholder Involvement

- Public Works
- Planning
- Elected

Resident Engagement

- Encouragement/education activities through school
- Walk/Bike Audits

Data

- SRTS Parent Survey
- Health Data

Experts

- Local Government Commission

How did it start?

Funding

- CA4Health Community Transformation Grant

Partnerships and Stakeholder Involvement

- Merced Bicycle Coalition
- Local Government Commission
- Elected Officials
- Winton School District
- Public Works and County Planning
- Central California Regional Obesity Prevention Program



Data Collection

- **Safe Routes to School Parent Surveys**
 - Over 800 surveys collected
 - More than 70% of students lived within 1 mile but
 - only ¼ of students walked to and/or from school
 - less than 1% of students rode a bicycle to and/or from school
 - **Some of the top reasons parents didn't allow students to walk or bike**
 - Violence/Crime
 - Safety of Intersections/Crossings
 - Speed
 - Amount of traffic
 - Sidewalks or Pathways

Encouragement/Education Activities

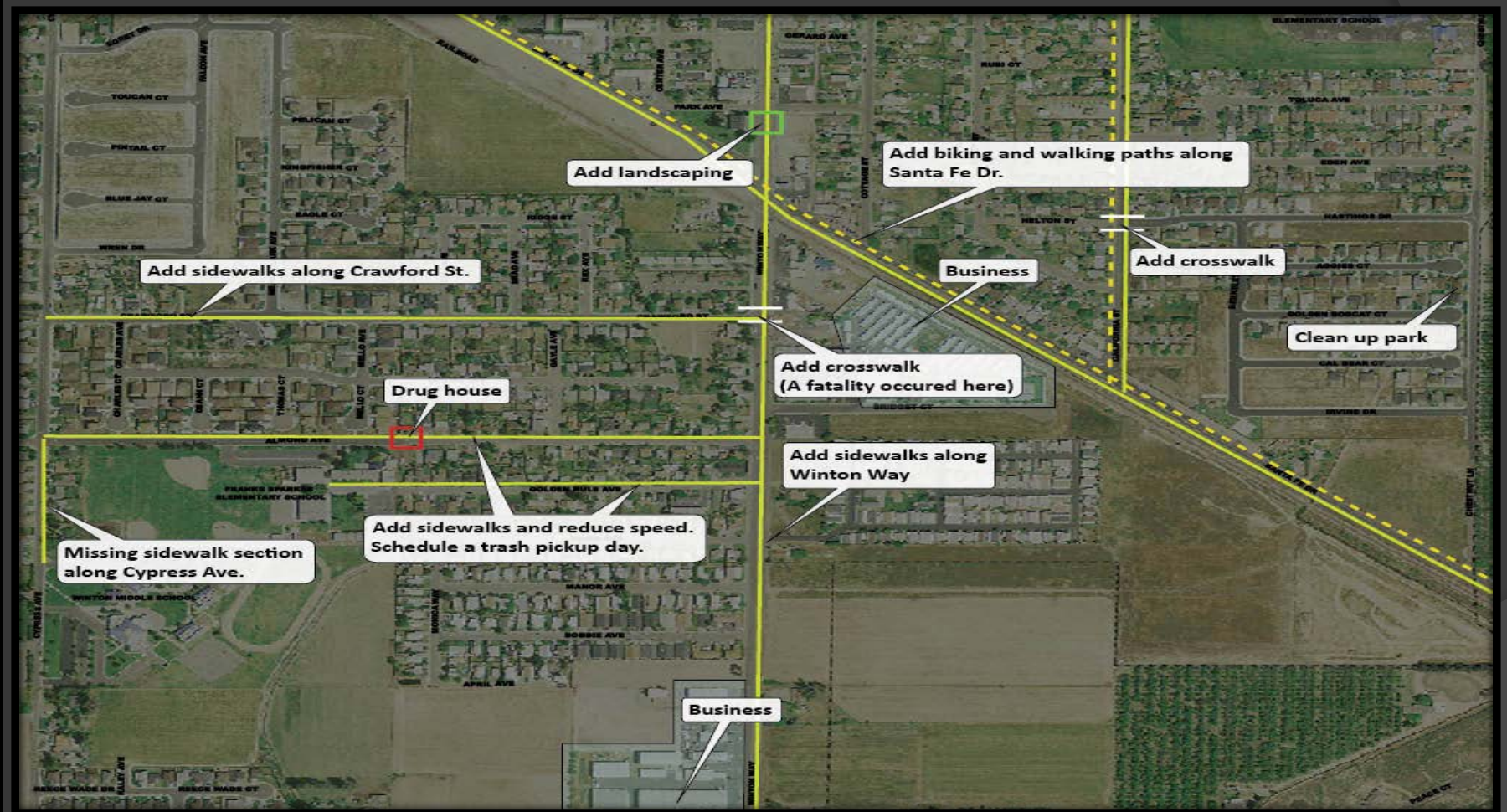
- Stakeholder Education
- Bike Rodeos
- Helmet Fittings
- Bike Safety Assemblies
- Media Campaign
- Walk/Bike Assessments



Walk/Bike Assessments



Assessment Map



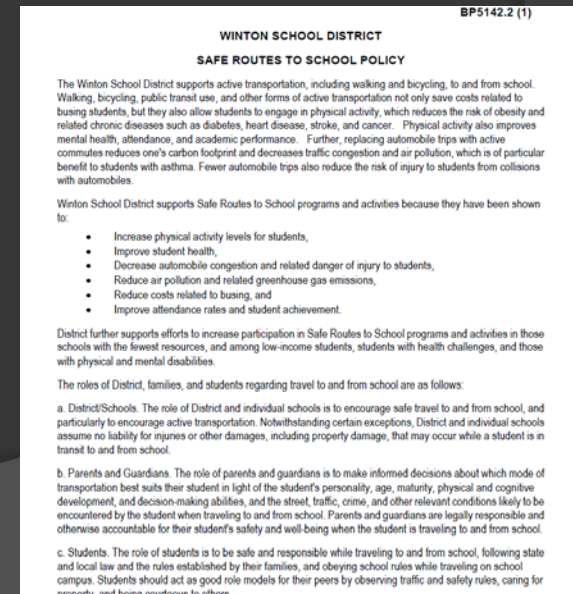
Results:

Comprehensive Districtwide SRTS Policy

- Requires traffic safety training/education for staff and students
- Supports creation of walking school bus/bicycle trains
- Encourages and promotes events such as Walk/Bike to school day
- Includes 'no idling' policy for buses and cars

Awarded Caltrans Active Transportation Program Grant

- Collaboration between Public Works and Public Health
- Infrastructure – includes curb, gutter, sidewalks and bike lanes.
- Non-infrastructure – education on proper use and continuation of encouragement activities.



Ongoing Efforts and Next Steps

- ❑ CDC Partnerships to Improve Community Health (PICH) funding:
 - ❑ Open Use Policies for Winton School District
 - ❑ Winton Community Plan
 - ❑ Winton Park Plan
- ❑ Implementation of Caltrans Active Transportation Program – summer 2016

Lessons

- Work with local partners
- Utilize experts
- Collect data
- Small amounts of money go a long way
- Collaborate
- Have fun!

Contact Information:

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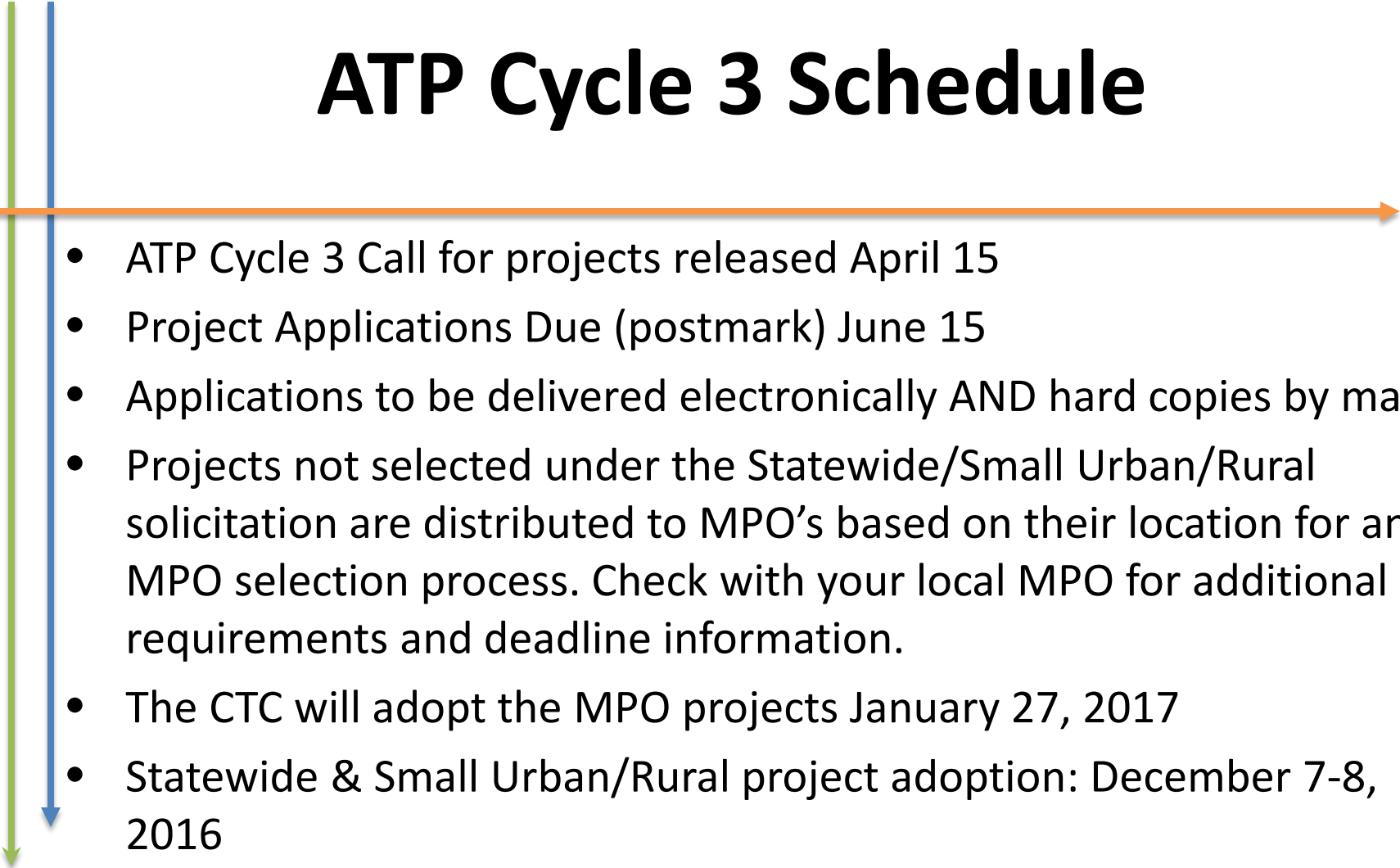
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ATP Cycle 3

- Funding years 2019/20 & 2020/21
- Approximately \$240 Million available
- Final guidance posted on California Transportation Commission (CTC) website:
www.catc.ca.gov/programs/ATP.htm
- ATP Cycle 3 Application and Instructions are available on the Caltrans ATP website:
www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/atp

ATP Cycle 3 Schedule

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- ATP Cycle 3 Call for projects released April 15
- Project Applications Due (postmark) June 15
- Applications to be delivered electronically AND hard copies by mail
- Projects not selected under the Statewide/Small Urban/Rural solicitation are distributed to MPO's based on their location for an MPO selection process. Check with your local MPO for additional requirements and deadline information.
- The CTC will adopt the MPO projects January 27, 2017
- Statewide & Small Urban/Rural project adoption: December 7-8, 2016
- Check CTC and Caltrans websites for the latest information



Questions for our presenters?

(please use the chat function)

Justine Hearn, California Department of Public Health, Active Transportation
Safety Program

Your feedback



- Look out for a Survey Gizmo email to solicit your feedback on today's webinar.
- It will also include questions regarding your interest in additional assistance in your SRTS work and Cycle 3 applications.

More Questions?

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- If you have more questions after today's webinar, please contact us:
 - ATRC webpage: www.CAsaferoutestoschool.org/safe-routes-to-school-programs-in-rural-california-a-guide-for-communities-and-partners/
 - Justine's contact information: justine.hearn@cdph.ca.gov
-

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