# 2016 Regional Surface Transportation Program (STP) Grant Application

## Project Title: Safe & Active Routes to Schools - Thurston County

### General Project Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency or Organization</th>
<th>Thurston County Public Health &amp; Social Services</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contact Person</td>
<td>Chris Hawkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone Number</td>
<td>360-867-2513</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email Address</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hawkinc@co.thurston.wa.us">hawkinc@co.thurston.wa.us</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Type of Regional Funding Priority**

- Safety [✔]
- Preservation [✔]
- Efficiency [✔]

**Threshold Criteria**

- Project elements meet all regional eligibility requirements [✔]
- Project elements and administration meet all federal eligibility requirements [✔]
- Applicant can demonstrate ability to obligate funding as proposed [✔]

### Status of Existing Federal Projects

- **Yes**
- **No**

Does the applicant have any other regional STP projects underway? (yes or no) [☐]

Does the applicant have any other state selected federal projects underway? (yes or no) [☐]

If yes to either, attach separate documentation describing status of each project including project name, funding source, year of award, progress to date, future obligation commitments and strategy for meeting those obligation commitments in addition to those associated with new project funding.

### Project Overview

Brief abstract (~ 150 words) of proposal identifying problem or need, how the proposal will address it, and anticipated benefits. This is a high level summary suitable for reports and on-line descriptions. Detailed project information is provided on page 3.

Addressing regional goals and priorities for increased share of all trips by active forms of transportation and improving safety for all modes, this Safe & Active Routes to School project aims to provide improved conditions around schools/in school neighborhoods for safe and convenient walking and bicycling. It will assess current conditions and identify needs for active transportation improvements, seek quick-win projects to begin to meet needs, and deliver encouragement/education to prepare a new generation for being safer and more active on their way to school. Target areas: southern Thurston County communities and other unincorporated areas not served by Intercity Transit’s Walk N Roll program. The project also benefits all residents of these areas by making it easier to travel more safely and efficiently and to get physical activity, supporting health goals to prevent a rise in obesity.

### Project Location and Details – applicants may submit a map of the project or program/service area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Construction Projects</th>
<th>Project Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Type of Construction Project</td>
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<td>Roadway Classification</td>
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<td>Length of Construction Project</td>
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<th>Number of Vehicles</th>
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<tr>
<td>Type of Vehicle</td>
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<tr>
<th>Transportation Programs/Services/Studies</th>
<th>Delivery Area of Program/Service/Study</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thurston County (entire)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Safe Routes to School</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Duration of Program/Service/Study</td>
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<td>2 years</td>
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PROJECT PHASING AND COSTS

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Cost</th>
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<td>Transportation Programs,</td>
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<td>67759</td>
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<td>Services, or Studies</td>
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*Construction proposals that include two or more project phases spanning more than one year must include a separate application for each phase.

YEAR OF OBLIGATION

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<td>Select the preferred federal fiscal year the project will obligate*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Select an alternate federal fiscal year the project could obligate</td>
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*Applicants are expected to obligate their project on time, as stated on this application and indicated on the award letter, if the project proposal is selected.

STP FUNDING REQUEST AND MATCHING REVENUES

| Federal Funding Request and Match (non-federal share) | 2017 |
| From Project Applicant* |      |
| Local funding or other sources | 9165 |
| State funding | 0    |
| STP Grant Request | 68594|

Total Project/Phase Revenue $67759

*Sponsors must provide a minimum of 13.5% non-federal share to federal share.
Example
Total Project Cost $100,000
Minimum non-federal share: $13,500
Federal STP Funds: $86,500

SUPPORT FOR THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN, SUSTAINABLE THURSTON OR OTHER REGIONAL INITIATIVES

Identify ways in which the proposed project supports the goals and policies of the Regional Transportation Plan, Implementation of Sustainable Thurston initiatives, or other regional initiatives. Examples of other Initiatives include, but are not limited to, Urban Corridor Communities and associated District Plans, Healthy Kids Safe Streets Action Plan, South Thurston Economic Development Initiative, Walk and Roll, Commute Trip Reduction, I-5 Action Plan, Calm, Bountiful Byways, Smart Corridors.

This project contributes to accomplishment of the Health & Human Services and Schools & Transportation goals of Sustainable Thurston (ST), and the Healthy Kids, Safe Streets Action Plan. It addresses ST Transportation goals aimed at increased efficiency alongside reduced congestion and emissions. Safe Routes to School is a strategy to achieve the Thurston Thrives Community Design goal of creating safe, convenient, abundant opportunities for physical activity across Thurston County (see RTP Ch. 2, p. 37; also Appendix 2 Strategy Map).

CERTIFICATION ACCEPTANCE

CA Agency and Representative Thurston County Public Works, Scott Devis, Interim County Engineer

CA Signature and Date 10/17/16

Project Verification and Endorsement

This project proposal reflects established local funding priorities consistent with the Regional Transportation Plan. Costs represent accurate planning level estimates needed to accomplish the work described herein. The project described is financially feasible, and local match revenue identified above is available and will be committed to the project if it receives the requested STP grant. If selected, the project will obligate funding by the date indicated on the award letter; failure to do so may result in loss of funding for the project and funds will not be restored. I realize that the use of federal funds for this project entails administrative and project compliance requirements over which TPRC has no control, and for which this agency or organization will be responsible. This project has the full endorsement of the governing body/leadership of this agency or organization.

Tom Stuebner, Director

Name and Title of Designated Representative

Signature of Designated Representative 10/17/2016

2016 TPRC Regional Surface Transportation Program Grant Application, page: 2
Safe & Active Routes to Schools - Thurston County

Thurston County Public Health & Social Services aims to work with partners to extend, to other unincorporated areas and southern Thurston County communities, the Safe & Active Routes to Schools project (SARTS Project) we have done successfully in NE Thurston County. The project will address important transportation safety issues: only 34% of middle school students in Thurston County walk or bike to school, as well as health concerns: about 2 in 3 students do not meet physical activity recommendations. We will conduct the program in at least two school districts, beyond current work with N. Thurston Public Schools, serving multiple school sites in each (at least 5 total sites).

The Health Department and partners (schools, Safe Kids Thurston County, Thurston County Public Works, and Thurston Regional Planning Council) will carry out the following Safe & Active Routes to School activities:

1. Assessment of conditions: examining street environments, presence of assets like attractive features, street lighting, and crossing improvements; traffic collision and speed data
2. Create action plans with school communities and local governments to address identified barriers to, and build on assets for safe and active transportation
3. Implement short-term improvements and prove programming support for kids and families – examples include: installation of wayfinding signs; providing safe walking route information; organizing walk or bicycle to school day; purchasing bike racks for schools
4. Update safe routes to school maps and information for families, and
5. Conduct support programming, such as convening and supporting an on-site committee at a minimum of two school sites to assist in organizing walking school buses and programs that encourage active and safe travel to school.

Safe Routes to School is listed in Thurston County’s 2016-21 TIP. There are many benefits that accrue from the SARTS Project, a proven transportation & health intervention addressing education, encouragement, and engineering:
Immediate impact (within one year)
• Build community engagement on defining safe routes and making improvements
• Provide information supports for children and families to be safe and active
Medium-term results (from 1-2 years)
• More children developing skills and habits of safe and active transportation: walking, bicycling, or other physically active ways of traveling. For children and families traveling to school, as well as others traveling in the school zone or school neighborhood (motor vehicle drivers as well as people walking or bicycling), safer travel behavior results
• A more supportive environment in neighborhood around schools for safe and active transportation
Longer-term outcomes (2-5 years)
• Reduced injury collisions and traffic deaths
• Reduced motor vehicle use and associated improved air quality and reduced climate changing emissions
• Increased physical activity and reduced obesity
The SARTS Project will not only provide some immediate benefits in terms of better understanding the barriers and opportunities for creating added support for safe and active transportation in more areas of Thurston County, it will lay the groundwork for additional larger infrastructure projects in the future. Thurston County Public Works has a track record of taking such foundational environmental assessment work and turning it into successful Safe Routes to School grant proposals to WSDOT: a current Lydia Hawk Elementary entry sidewalk and traffic calming project and a proposed (possible top-tier) safe school zone project for Olympic View Elementary. Partners continue to seek additional funding from a variety of sources to make improvements and serve people in more areas of the region (see appendices 3 and 4).

Support of Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Goals
As noted above, this Safe & Active Routes to Schools project proposal puts regional goals and initiatives into action by making improvements to the built environment that increase safety and efficiency and increasing supports for active transportation. In addition to direct references to Safe Routes to School in the RTP (Policy 4.3. in System Safety and Security), the project will help to create safe and vibrant neighborhoods (Policy 1.l) and develop supports for active transportation (Policy 11.b “Provide safe and convenient bicycle routes to all schools in the region, and encourage their use.”) It also addresses Policy 12.d “Develop and encourage connections for pedestrian and bicycle travel to shorten trip lengths to transit routes, schools…”). Other goals and policies for these active modes call for increasing the mode share for walking and bicycling by way of the kinds of small projects and planning efforts for which this project can provide a foundation (policies 11d., 12.f, and 12.g.). The project also directly serves the Transportation Demand Management Policy 6.b “Encourage use of public transportation, ridesharing, bicycling, and walking by improving access, convenience, and reliability.” These of course all support overall emphasis in STP and the RTP on a safe and efficient Multimodal Transportation System (RTP Goal 2). In implementing the Thurston Thrives Community Design ‘Sustain Safe Routes to School’ strategy, this project bolsters objectives of improving places and connections (see strategy map in Appendix 2) that aim to create active-friendly environments close to where people live, and increasing the use of these active places, so that levels of physical activity increase and our community’s health improves in the longer run.

Thurston County Public Health & Social Services, working with Certification Acceptance Agency Thurston County Public Works Department, is ready to obligate the funds and implement this project, alongside its partners, as soon as the funding is made available (i.e. spring 2017). This would allow us to begin assessments and work with school districts and their communities to identify needed improvements and Safe Routes to School programming. Products would include assessment reports and action plans by school district. This obligation timeline would allow us to put these steps into action as early as the end of the 2016-2017 school year, and be implementing changes for the health, safety and transportation efficiency of our community in the school years that follow.
Safe & Active Routes to Schools - Thurston County - Appendices:

1. Safe & Active Routes to Schools Vicinity Map

2. Thurston Thrives Community Design Strategy Map

### STRATEGIES - ACTIONS
- Plan for more active corridors and districts
  - Carry Out Urban Corridors Strategy & Stuart Thurston
    - Capital Boulevard
    - Brewery District
    - Woodland District

- Increase availability of neighborhoods parks and other supports
  - Local matching grants

- Improve street design
  - Build complete streets

- Increase extent of trails and pathways

- Sustain Safe Routes to School (SRTS) programs
  - Continue county-wide efforts

- Promote use (Education & Encouragement)

- Align development codes

### OBJECTIVES
- Increase housing density near commercial services and other destinations
  - Measure: Market trends for housing in walkable environments, e.g., near transit, trails, etc.
  - Increase ratio of walk vs. drive

- Improve Places
  - Measure: Proportion of new development in walkable settings (see key measure to the right)

- Improve Connections

- Create safe, convenient and abundant opportunities for physical activity

### GOALS
- Increase convenience & density of walking, biking and transit
  - Measure: TIDs – measure of neighborhood parks improvement

- Improve attachment to place
  - Measure: Count of 240 housing units that are pedestrian and bike-friendly

- Improve safety
  - Measure: Proportion of students within a walkable distance to school

### VISION
- People are physically active in our daily lives

Key Measures (Community Indicators)
- # of multi-use trail miles
- Proportion of new housing built within 1/2 mile of an activity center

Environment Action Area

Create change, mitigate

Thurston Thrives!
October 14, 2016

Paul Brewster  
Thurston Regional Planning Council  
2424 Heritage Ct. SW, Suite A  
Olympia, WA  98502

Re: Transportation Alternatives Program Call for Projects

Dear Mr. Brewster,

Safe Routes to School projects are proven to increase participation in walking, bicycling and other active transportation to school. We see these travel modes as valuable ways for people to reach the public transportation our agency provides, especially when they lack access to a motor vehicle. Intercity Transit is committed to promoting a multimodal approach to transportation and this type of project corresponds to and supports our mission.

The proposed Safe Routes to School project also complements our Walk N Roll program by serving areas of Thurston County outside of Intercity Transit’s Public Transportation Benefit Area. Like Walk N Roll, this engages a community in improving safety and encourages use of a healthy, active form of travel. When more people in the community commit to walking, biking, and using transit, our streets become safer and less congested for all users.

We are very interested in continued collaboration to have positive impacts consistent with the Healthy Kids Safe Streets Action Plan at more schools in our community. Please support this worthwhile project to extend the benefits of safer, more active travel to and from school to more of Thurston County’s families.

Sincerely,

Ann Freeman-Manzanares  
General Manager
Transportation Alternatives Program Call for Projects
c/o Paul Brewster – Thurston Regional Planning Council
2424 Heritage Ct. SW, Suite A
Olympia, WA  98502

Dated: by October 14

Mr. Brewster,

Childhood unintentional injuries are the leading cause of death among children from ages one to 19 years, representing nearly 40 percent of all deaths in this age group. Our organization is focused on preventing child injury and deaths by achieving reductions in key sources such as youth pedestrian safety, and safe biking. Working with several organizations, we formed the Youth Pedestrian Task Force in 2012 to address issues in school zones and find solutions through various programs and projects.

We have been a partner of the health department over several years during which we have successfully implemented these projects with two neighborhoods, Tanglewilde and Thompson Place in eastern Thurston County. One of the projects resulted in immediate improvements: neighborhood signs for the schools, a pathway enhancement and program support (Walk to School Day) and other traffic safety education. It has also been awarded WSDOT Safe Routes to School funding to implement new sidewalk and traffic calming infrastructure. The other, more recent project around Olympic View Elementary has held a walk to school day event and community meeting and is in the running for the next round of WSDOT Safe Routes to School funding.

We hope to continue working together with the health department and to be able to distribute bicycle helmets to children of families both within this and other safe school travel projects like Walk N Roll. Please give strong consideration to the Safe & Active Routes to School proposal from Thurston County as part of your grant process.

Sincerely,

Danielle King
Coordinator
Danielle@ccacwa.org
October 14, 2016

Dear Thurston County Public Health & Social Services,

Tenino Elementary is eager to have the support of Thurston County Public Health & Social Services and its partners to accomplish a Safe & Active Routes to School project.

I have seen the benefits of similar projects as I worked in the North Thurston Public Schools district in and around Lacey. We made some great strides at Lydia Hawk and Mountain View elementary schools. I also saw the benefits in the Tanglewilde neighborhood of more kids also being able, and having the encouragement, to walk safely to nearby Nisqually Middle School. It would be a great benefit to our students to have this program in our community.

Please give strong consideration to this proposed Safe & Active Routes to School project so that we can do even more to build a generation of healthy, active and safe kids. Please consider our school and school district to be a willing partner in bringing a Safe & Active Routes to School approach to our community.

Sincerely,

Charles Harrington
Principal/Tenino Elementary
3. Other Current Federal/State Grants

Thurston County Public Health & Social Services is a subrecipient on a WSDOT Safe Routes to School Grant to Thurston County Public Works, which serves as the CA. See listing of Thurston County Federally Funded projects (separate attachment). The health department receives $25,000 of the grant, which supports work on the education and encouragement aspects of the Lydia Hawk/Tanglewilde project to improve roadway conditions in the vicinity of the school entrance. Already, Thurston County has obligated and completed preliminary work on this project. The health department has conducted work to engage both Lydia Hawk and other nearby schools in safe and active routes to school activities (committee and school leadership meetings; walk- and bicycle-to-school events). Design is expected to be done within the next 8 months to allow construction during summer 2017. See below for discussion of other applications.

4. Other Support/Coordination

A letter of interest for support of Safe School Zones assessment and action planning has been submitted by Safe Kids Thurston County in a separate funding opportunity (Safe Kids Worldwide). This would provide the assessment and action portion of the process described in the Safe & Active Routes to Schools narrative to be done with Tenino schools. If Safe Kids were awarded that funding, we would shift the offering of this Safe & Active Routes to School project to other areas of Thurston County (examples: East Olympia, Littlerock in Tumwater School District, Rainier, and possibly other areas of Thurston County).

Intercity Transit’s Walk N Roll, funded separately, serves the Public Transportation Benefit Area with Safe Routes to School programming, primarily the urban areas of Thurston County, with primary focus on education and encouragement activities. This makes an excellent counterpart to the Safe & Active Routes to Schools efforts in unincorporated and more rural areas of Thurston County.

5. Letters of Support (see following pages)