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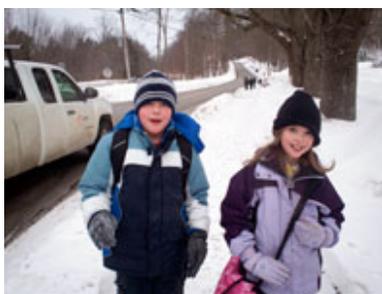


Maine Safe Routes to School Newsflash | January 2016

Happy New Year from the Maine Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Team! We'll be sending out our next full newsletter in February but wanted to remind you about Maine's 2nd Annual Winter Walk to School Day and a few other timely opportunities.

Reminder - Maine Celebrates the 2nd Annual Winter Walk to School Day on February 3rd! Maine Joins the Celebration with Canada and Other Northern Tier States

Everyday is a good day to walk and bike to school and many Maine students continue to do so throughout the school year (like these students in South Berwick above and Hallowell below). It's a great way to get outside and stay healthy! **With the onset of the heart of winter, we wanted to share these [smart tips for safe and comfortable walking and bicycling](#) (please be sure to review them here).**



We also invite you to use these tips to celebrate Maine's 2nd Annual Winter Walk to School Day, on Wednesday, February 3, 2016! [Here is a Poster you can use to promote your event.](#)



The event was first started in Canada and has been adopted by other northern tier states in recent years like Maine, Vermont, Minnesota, and Wisconsin! [Here are some Winter Walk Day ideas](#) from our neighbors to the north. Please feel free to be in touch with Maine SRTS program staff for help strategizing your winter walk and bike activities or events (contact info in right sidebar).

And if you do host any activities, [please let us know about the great work you are up to - and request any incentive materials you need, including stickers \(like the Winter Walk Day one above\), and bookmarks - by registering your walk and bike activities here!](#) **All schools that register** their events with the Maine Safe Routes to School Program this winter and coming spring **are entered into a raffle for some fun safety gear!**



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Timely Funding Opportunities

The Maine Safe Routes to School Program keeps an eye out for local and national resources that

will help build and support your walk and bike to school activities.

Email:

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Rails-to-Trails Conservancy Trails Development Fund

Deadline for Applications is Jan. 31, 2016

The Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) launched a new grant program in 2015 to support organizations and local governments that are implementing projects to build and improve rail-trails. Under the **Doppelt Family Trail Development Fund**, RTC will award a total of \$85,000 per year for the next five years to qualifying projects through a competitive process. The deadline for applications is Jan. 31, 2016, by 11 p.m. EST. [Please consult their website](#) to learn how to apply. Questions should be sent to grants@railstotrails.org.

Various Deadlines - Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)

Most Letters of Intent Due in January

Each year the State of Maine receives an allocation of funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to be distributed to eligible Maine communities under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Some of these funds can be used for physical infrastructure safety improvements such as building sidewalks and other quality of place facilities.



CDBG Program categories your community may be eligible for are:

- Downtown Revitalization Program - includes sidewalks
- Public Facilities - includes parks and recreation facilities
- Public Infrastructure - includes streets, roads and sidewalks, curbs and gutters
- Maine Downtown Center Assistance - includes planning, capacity building, technical assistance and administration directly related to furthering the Maine Downtown Center's objectives in building vibrant, sustainable Maine downtowns
- Economic Development Program - includes streets, curbs, gutters, sidewalks, etc. owned by the municipality or public or private utility and where improvements would support of an identified business which will create or retain jobs in the non-retail sector for low and moderate income persons. For the Economic Development Program, Letters of Intent to Apply are due the first Friday of each month by 4pm.

[See here for more information on the above categories and their related application](#)

[processes](#). Unless noted above, Letters of Intent to Apply for CDBG program funds will likely be due sometime after the first of the year (**2016 Letters of Intent for the categories above are due between January and May**).

Please note: If you are interested in physical infrastructure improvement projects in **Auburn, Bangor, Biddeford, Lewiston, Portland and anywhere else in Cumberland County (with the exception of Baldwin, Brunswick, Casco and Frye Island)** - each of these areas has a local CDBG funding process. Contact your local municipality today to learn more about application deadlines and encourage your community to submit applications for infrastructure projects to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety.

Other Walk/Bike Resources

Webinar: The New Federal Transportation Bill: What's the Impact on Safe Routes to School?

Thursday, January 14, 1-2pm

[Register Now Here](#)

In December 2015, the U.S. Congress passed a new transportation law called the FAST Act. The law provides five years of funding for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) - which supports Safe Routes to School, walking and bicycling projects. The law also made some policy changes.

In this webinar, the National Partnership's federal policy lead, Margo Pedroso, will review the changes to TAP along with other provisions in the FAST Act that provide opportunities for Safe Routes to School funding and policies that make communities safer for kids and families walking and bicycling.

This webinar will include a substantial question and answer session with attendees – this is your chance to learn more about federal transportation law and to ask specific questions about how it works in your community.

America Walks Webinar: Livable Communities for all Ages

Thursday, January 14, 2-3pm

[Register Now Here](#)

America Walks is excited to partner with AARP for its first webinar of 2016. To meet its commitment to creating great places for people of all ages, AARP has developed several resources that should be in the toolbox of any walking advocate. AARP's Jeanne Anthony will walk participants through two of their resources, the Livability Index and the Livable Economy: People, Places and Prosperity Report. Following, hear how one local organization is using both in their efforts to make walkable communities a reality for people from 8 to 80.

Creating Walkable Communities: A Health in All Policies Approach

Tuesday, January 19, 1-2pm

[Register Now Here](#)

The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Promote Walking and Walkable Communities demonstrates the importance of increasing physical activity and preventing chronic disease through walking and creating walkable communities. This webinar will focus on the second goal of the call to action — Design Communities that Make It Safe and Easy to Walk for People of All Ages and Abilities — and will show how state and local communities are working across sectors to design walkable communities for all.

America Walks Webinar: Planning for Walkable Communities: A Transferable Training Program from Kentucky

Thursday, February 11, 2-3pm

[Register Now Here](#)

There are a wealth of resources available to the walking movement. From webinars to toolkits to step-by-step guides, these tools provide the information and guidance necessary to take the first step on the path to a walkable America. Join America Walks as it looks at some of the resources available to the walking movement, hear from experts on how best to use them and learn from real-life examples on their challenges and successes.

Thanks for all you do to improve your communities and please be in touch!

The Maine Safe Routes to School Team

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