

Community Focus Statement C: Improve the local road system for increased safety and function.

Action Statement C.4: Coordinate with the County, Caltrans, the school district, and other stakeholders to develop a Safe Routes to School Program for Lucerne Valley children.

Benchmark: A Safe Routes to School program for the Lucerne Valley community is established.

Champion: Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

Estimated Cost: Contingent upon level of improvements

PREVIOUSLY
CONSIDERED



Students on a Safe Routes to School patrol. Photo source: Jen Nance

The Lucerne Valley Unified School District is very familiar with Safe Routes to School. They stated in a comment letter (October 30, 2017) that until housing is close to the school with sidewalks, this Action is not feasible. Very few students live within walking distance to school.

Lucerne Valley is served by Lucerne Valley Elementary School, Lucerne Valley Middle/High School and a continuation school. The community generally lacks adequate pedestrian and bicycle facilities along its roadways, and many children cannot safely walk or ride their bike to school. To encourage increased mobility among the community's children, Lucerne Valley can develop and implement

a Safe Routes to School program.

A Safe Routes to School program encourages children to walk or bike to school by funding projects that remove barriers which prevent them from doing so. Barriers may include a lack of or unsafe infrastructure and/or a lack of educational programs that promote walking and bicycling aimed at children, parents, and the elderly. In California, Caltrans administers two separate versions of the program—a state-legislated program, SR2S, and a federal program, SRTS. SRTS grants are very competitive. Per Caltrans, the following table summarizes the key differences between the programs:

Program Features	State-Legislated Program – SR2S	Federal Program – SRTS
Eligible Applicants	Cities and Counties	State, local, and regional agencies and Native American tribes experienced in meeting federal transportation requirements. Nonprofit organizations, school districts, and public health departments must partner with a city, county, metropolitan planning organization (MPO), or regional transportation planning agency (RTPA) to serve as the responsible agency for their project.
Eligible Projects	Infrastructure projects	Stand-alone infrastructure or non-infrastructure projects
Local Match	10% minimum required	None
Project Completion Deadline	Within 4½ years after project funds are allocated to the agency	Within 4½ years after project is amended into the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP)
Restrictions on Infrastructure Projects	Must be located in the vicinity of a school	Infrastructure projects must be within 2 miles of a grade school or middle school
Targeted Beneficiaries	Children in grades K–12	Children in grades K–8
Funding	\$24.25M annual funding	\$21–25M annual funding

Note: Refer to Community Development Toolkit, Tool T7 – How to Establish Safe Routes to Schools.

PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Host a community meeting to identify stakeholders committed to working together in developing and implementing the project and create a committee.	Champion, Lucerne Valley Unified School District and Community Members	Months 1-3	National Center for Safe Routes to School http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/program-tools/build-sustain-program
2. Contact the local Board of Supervisors to voice interest in developing a Safe Routes to School program and increase safety in the community.	SRTS Committee	Months 1-3	Caltrans – SRTS Program Local Assistance http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/saferoutes/srts.htm
3. Identify appropriate assessment studies to be conducted as a way to inventory and identify safety needs/hazards around schools; get information and seek out resources; and propose alternatives that would correct those needs/hazards.	SRTS Committee with support from Lucerne Valley Unified School District	Months 3-9	Riverside, California: SRTS Coalition sees success in Riverside (case study) http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/program-tools/success-stories/riverside-california-srts-coalition-sees-success-riverside
4. Once appropriate assessment studies are conducted and needs have been identified, prioritize alternatives and select the best alternative that proposes short-term and longer-term safety solutions in the form of projects.	SRTS Committee and Lucerne Valley Unified School District	Months 9-12	Walk-Bike to School http://www.walkbiketoschool.org/ Caltrans Local Assistance http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/saferoutes/saferoutes.htm
5. Develop a plan for the implementation of the project.	SRTS Committee and Lucerne Valley Unified School District	Months 12-15	Safe Routes to School National Partnership http://saferoutespartnership.org/healthy-communities/policy-change/federal
6. For Caltrans Safe Routes to School funding, submit an application to compete for funding for the project when a call for projects cycle is under way. Other non-state or federal funding opportunities can be sought out. The Safe Routes to School National Partnership offers resources and links to privately available funding sources.	SRTS Committee with Lucerne Valley Unified School District	Months 15-18	Funding Sources: National Center for Safe Routes to School http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/program-tools/funding Caltrans – Safe Routes to School http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/saferoutes/srts_process.htm