



KENNY C. GUINN
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1263 S. Stewart Street
Carson City, Nevada 89712

January 25, 2006

JEFF FONTAINE, P.E., *Director*

In Reply Refer to: PSD 7.09b

Subject: Nevada's implementation of the National Safe Routes to School Program (SR2S)

In August 2005, Congress passed, and President Bush signed, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU, Public Law 109-59). Section 1404 of this transportation reauthorization bill mandates a new, federally funded, **Safe Routes to School Program (SR2S)**. Funding is provided to all 50 states based on their respective kindergarten through 8th grade student populations. Each state must provide a SR2S coordinator to administer the program.

Safe Routes to School is a program designed to decrease traffic and pollution and increase the health of children and the community. The program promotes a culture of walking and biking to school through education and incentives targeted at student, parent, and school staff populations. The program also addresses safety concerns by encouraging greater enforcement of traffic laws, education of the general public, as well as, exploration of ways to create safer streets by the improvement of infrastructure.

An effective SR2S program requires a comprehensive approach that includes engineering, education, enforcement, encouragement and evaluation (referred to as the "five Es"). SR2S program planning and initiation should not consider any one element in isolation, but rather a review and inclusion of stakeholders concerns and ideas together, with the ultimate goal of childrens' safety in mind. The State's evaluation, and possible funding, of projects and programs will be of the utmost importance in an effort to support community-based programs now and in the future.

Funding received by the states will be focused on two areas of implementation:

- **Infrastructure** related projects (70%-90% of funding) - engineering based such as sidewalks, traffic calming, bicycle facilities.
- **Non-Infrastructure** related projects (10%-30% of funding) - based on public awareness, education, enforcement and encouragement.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is in the process of providing to the states, guidance (Code of Federal Regulations – CFR) on the SR2S program. Once these regulations are published in the Federal Register, Nevada's program will proceed with implementation of our program. We expect FHWA to have the CFR finalized in the early summer of 2006. Please check back with us periodically at www.walknevada.com or call 775.888.7433.