

9. REGIONAL SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM UPDATE

BACKGROUND

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a national and international movement to increase physical activity, improve health, reduce traffic congestion, and address air quality by getting more students walking and rolling to school and in daily life. SRTS follows a “Six E’s” framework—education, engineering, evaluation, encouragement, engagement, and equity—to create projects and programs to expand mobility options for children and parents.

Creating a regional SRTS program is identified in the goals of H-GAC’s current 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), as well as in the draft 2026-2027 UPWP. H-GAC’s SRTS program will accomplish three (3) objectives:

1. Conduct a literature review and best practices study of SRTS, including recommendations for the MPO’s role in moving SRTS forward in the region.
2. Provide planning support for implementation of SRTS best practices in the region.
3. Provide technical support for regional, local area, corridor, and site specific SRTS plans.

H-GAC’s SRTS program will leverage funding and policy opportunities to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety, expand mobility options, encourage alternative transportation use, and promote public health in the catchment areas of schools across the region.

CURRENT SITUATION

H-GAC staff continues to refine the regional SRTS program framework and meet with stakeholders to gauge interest in SRTS. Sponsors of potential SRTS infrastructure projects are encouraged to submit to H-GAC’s open Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) call for projects. For SRTS non-infrastructure and planning projects, H-GAC staff has identified best practices to potentially implement in a pilot program in 2026. The SRTS non-infrastructure pilot framework will be submitted to the Pedestrian-Bicyclist Subcommittee, TAC, and TPC for review in early 2026.

ACTION REQUESTED

Information only.