Louisiana Safe Routes to School
Safe Routes to School goals

Where it’s safe, get kids walking and biking

Where it’s not safe, make it safe
Community conditions make it hard to walk or bike.
Make walking and bicycling safe ways to get to school

Encourage more children to walk or bike to school
Elements of Safe Routes to School programs

- Education
- Encouragement
- Enforcement
- Engineering
- Evaluation
Education

Teaches safety skills

Creates safety awareness

Fosters life-long safety habits

Includes parents, neighbors and other drivers
Encouragement

- Increases popularity of walking and biking
- Is an easy way to start SRTS programs
- Emphasizes fun of walking and biking
**Enforcement**

- Increases awareness of pedestrians and bicyclists
- Improves driver behavior
- Helps children follow traffic rules
- Decreases parent perceptions of danger
Evaluation

- SAFETY BENEFITS
- BEHAVIORAL CHANGES
- OTHER BENEFITS
- PRE and POST DATA
- LONG TERM EVALUATION
Louisiana Safe Routes to School Program

- 5th application cycle opened 1/3/11
- 46 projects approved for funding through 2007 and 2010
LA DOTD
Statewide Partnerships and Initiatives

- **Encouragement:** *Louisiana Safe Kids*
- **Evaluation:** *Tulane University*

- **Education and Enforcement:** *Louisiana State Police*

- **Engineering:** *Funded projects*
LA DOTD
Statewide Partnerships and Initiatives

Encouragement: *Louisiana Safe Kids*

- Slow start due to personnel changes at Safe Kids
- New Coordinator has begun to plan activities for completion in 2011
- Ensures program visibility
- Encourages participation from non funded schools and communities
LA DOTD
Statewide Partnerships and Initiatives

- **Evaluation: Tulane University**

- In 2009, Tulane University completed an evaluation project that they developed in house as a means of gathering baseline data for Safe Routes to School in Louisiana.

- The baseline project was funded by a grant secured by Tulane. The follow up project will be funded by the Safe Routes to School Program.
The partnership with the Louisiana State Police has been fruitful:

- $91,013.49 has been spent so far to execute a bicycle/pedestrian safety education program statewide.
- The project has also helped to enforce helmet usage by distributing 9000 helmets to children statewide.
- To date, troopers have conducted more than 167 bicycle and pedestrian safety presentations to more than 15,160 school age children.
LA-DOTD SRTS Challenges then and now

...In the beginning

• Quality of proposals

• Awareness of the Program

...Current challenges

• Lack of visible progress

• Timeline

• Backlog
LA-DOTD SRTS Challenges *then* and *now*

**Quality of proposals**

- One dimensional
- Not comprehensive
- Lacked stakeholder involvement
- “Sidewalk program”

**Solutions:** 1) training, 2) refined application
LA-DOTD SRTS Challenges then and now

• Limited visible progress
• 1 completed project
• Skepticism from critics
• Out of sight, out of mind

Solutions: Short term: Enhance statewide efforts
LA-DOTD SRTS Challenges then and now

**Backlog**

- 46 total projects (FY07 – FY10)
- Most involve construction
- Changes to school environment
- New applicants hesitant
LA-DOTD SRTS Challenges then and now

**Timeline**

- Slow infrastructure process = delay in non infrastructure activities
- PR nightmare
- Slows momentum
- Discourages applicants
For more information...

*Louisiana Safe Routes to School*
www.dotd.louisiana.gov/planning/highwaysafety/saferoutes

*National Center for Safe Routes to School*
www.saferoutesinfo.org

*US DOT Federal Highway Administration*
http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/saferoutes/
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