



Safe Routes to School NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP

Sustaining Safe Routes to School initiatives:

Emerging policy and practice
strategies that make it happen

Robert Ping

State Network Director
SRTS National Partnership





Safe Routes to School is a Smart Growth Program!

- Infrastructure and Social Change – Five E's
- School Siting and Complete Streets



National Center or National Partnership?

- SRTS National Partnership – advocacy, federal and state
- National Center for SRTS – federal funds, technical assistance



Safe Routes to School Movement is Growing!

- Health, Bicycle, Smart Growth, Active Transportation
- Maturing, Policy Change, Institutionalizing, Best Practices

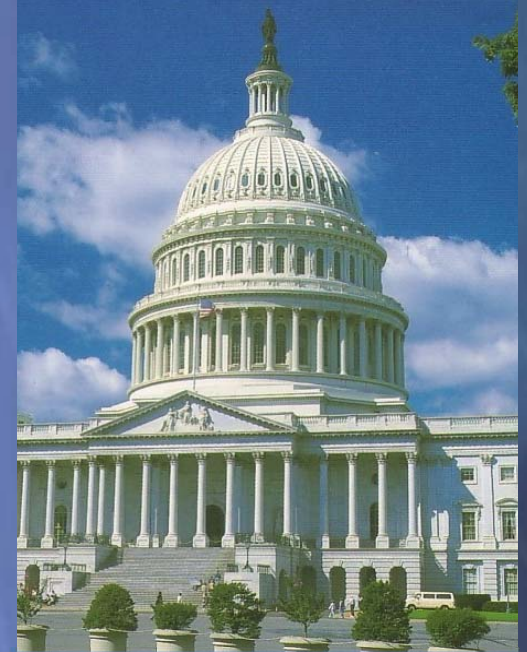
Federal Safe Routes to School legislation

Congress is working on the next transportation bill.

SRTS National Partnership advocating to increase SRTS funding to \$600 million/year.

Other priorities:

- adding high schools,
- addressing regulatory burden,
- Safe Routes to Bus Stops,
- improving research and evaluation.

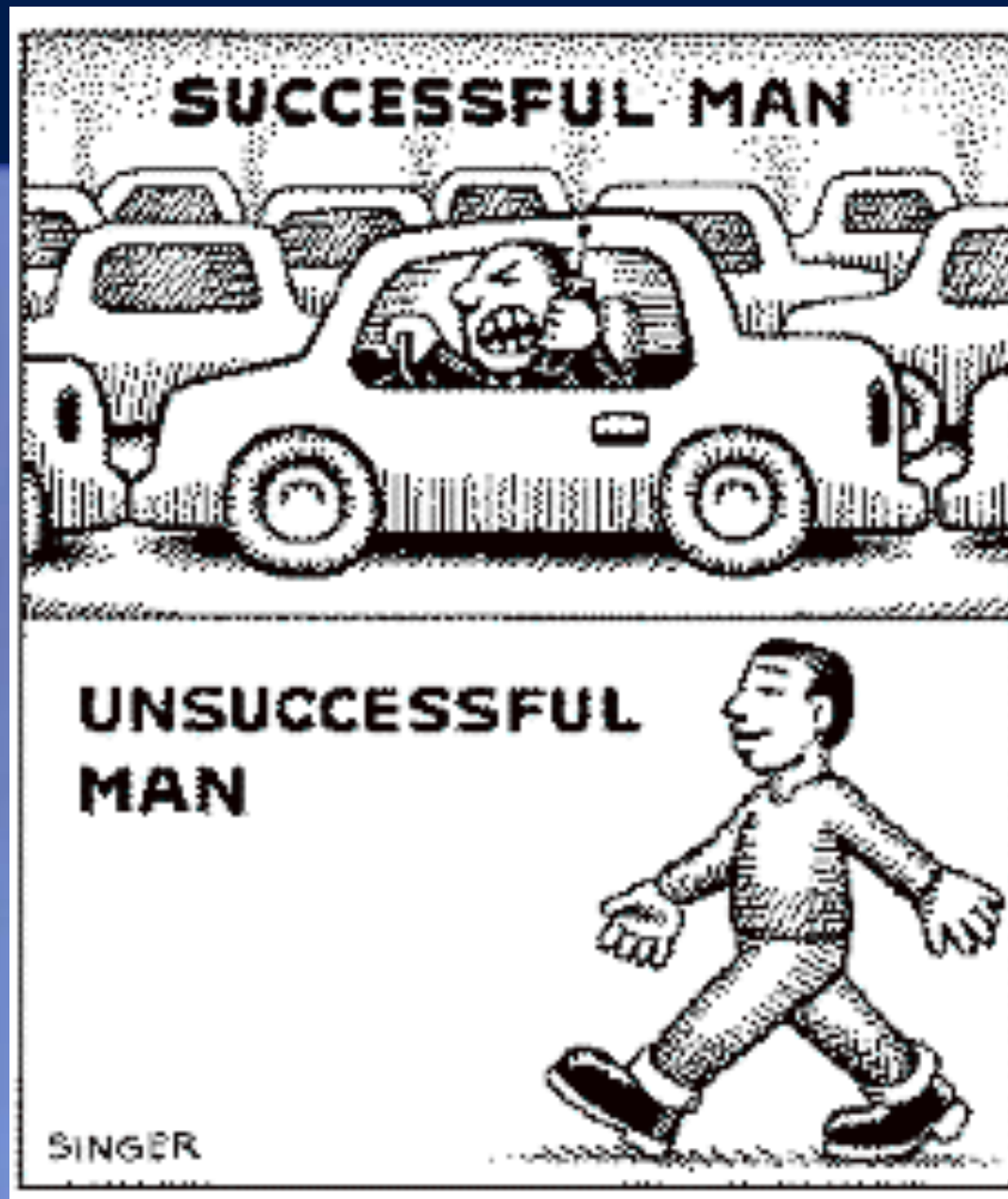


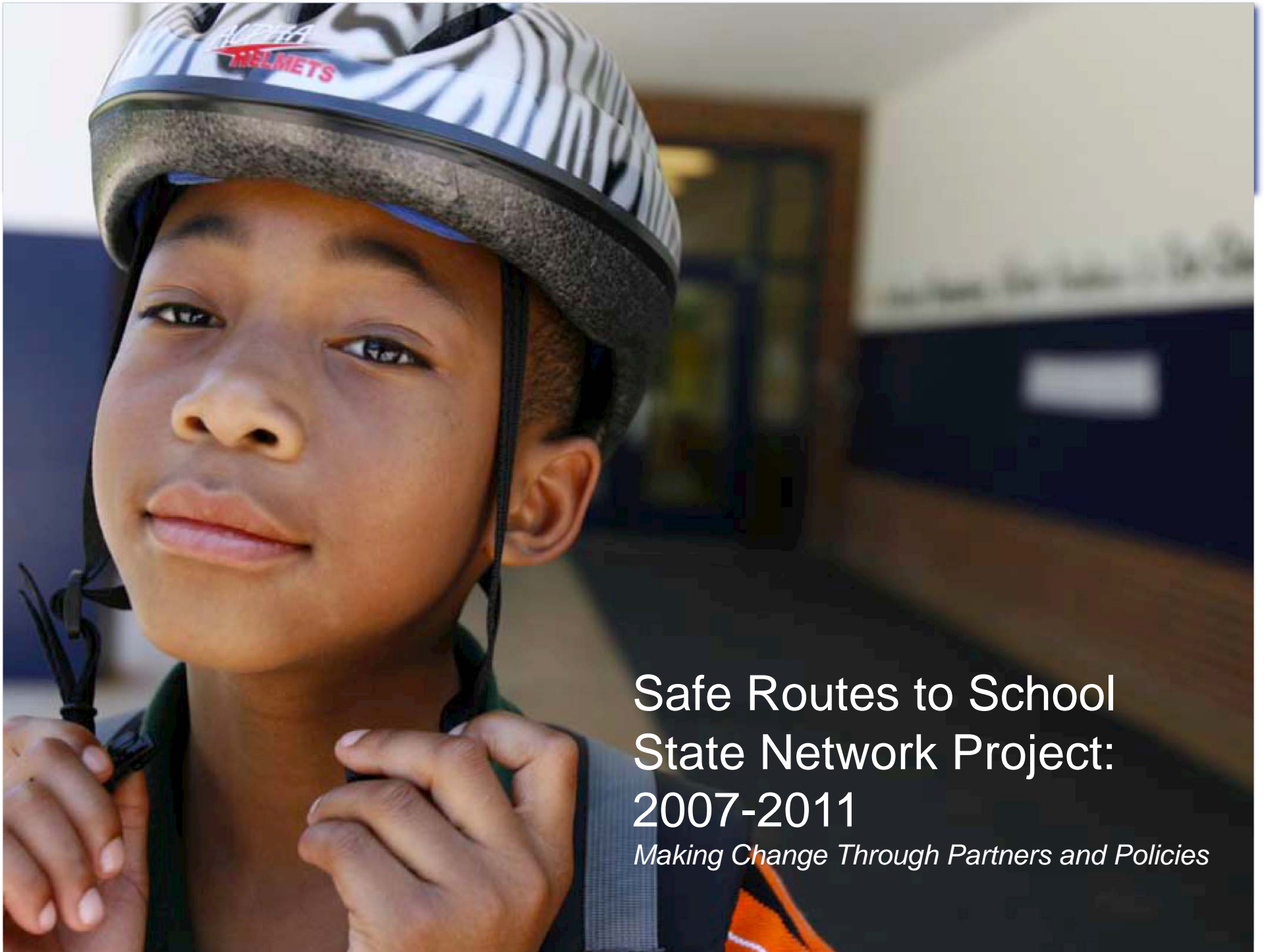
**More
extensions?**

Trust Fund?

Senate – Y

House - ?



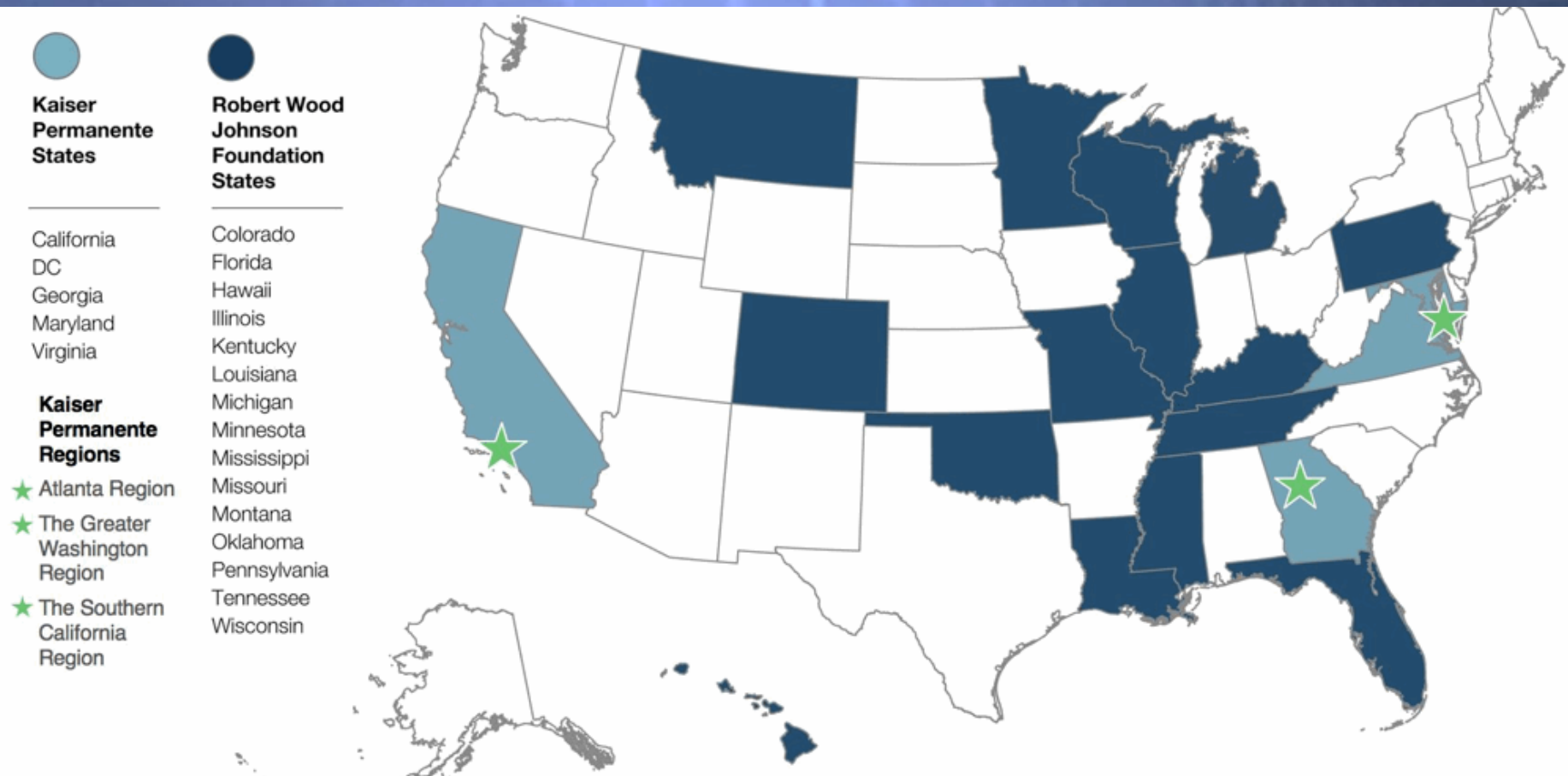


Safe Routes to School
State Network Project:
2007-2011

Making Change Through Partners and Policies



Serving 20 States and 3 Regions





SRTS State Network Project

- ✦ State DOT SRTS program
- ✦ School Siting
- ✦ Complete Streets
- ✦ Fine-based Funding Mechanisms
- ✦ School Wellness Policies
- ✦ Strategic Highway Safety Plan
- ✦ Large-scale Curriculum and Instruction
- ✦ SRTS-related Legislation

- ✦ Other Policies Unique to States

- ✦ Visit saferoutespartnership.org/state/5638 to learn more about these 8 policies



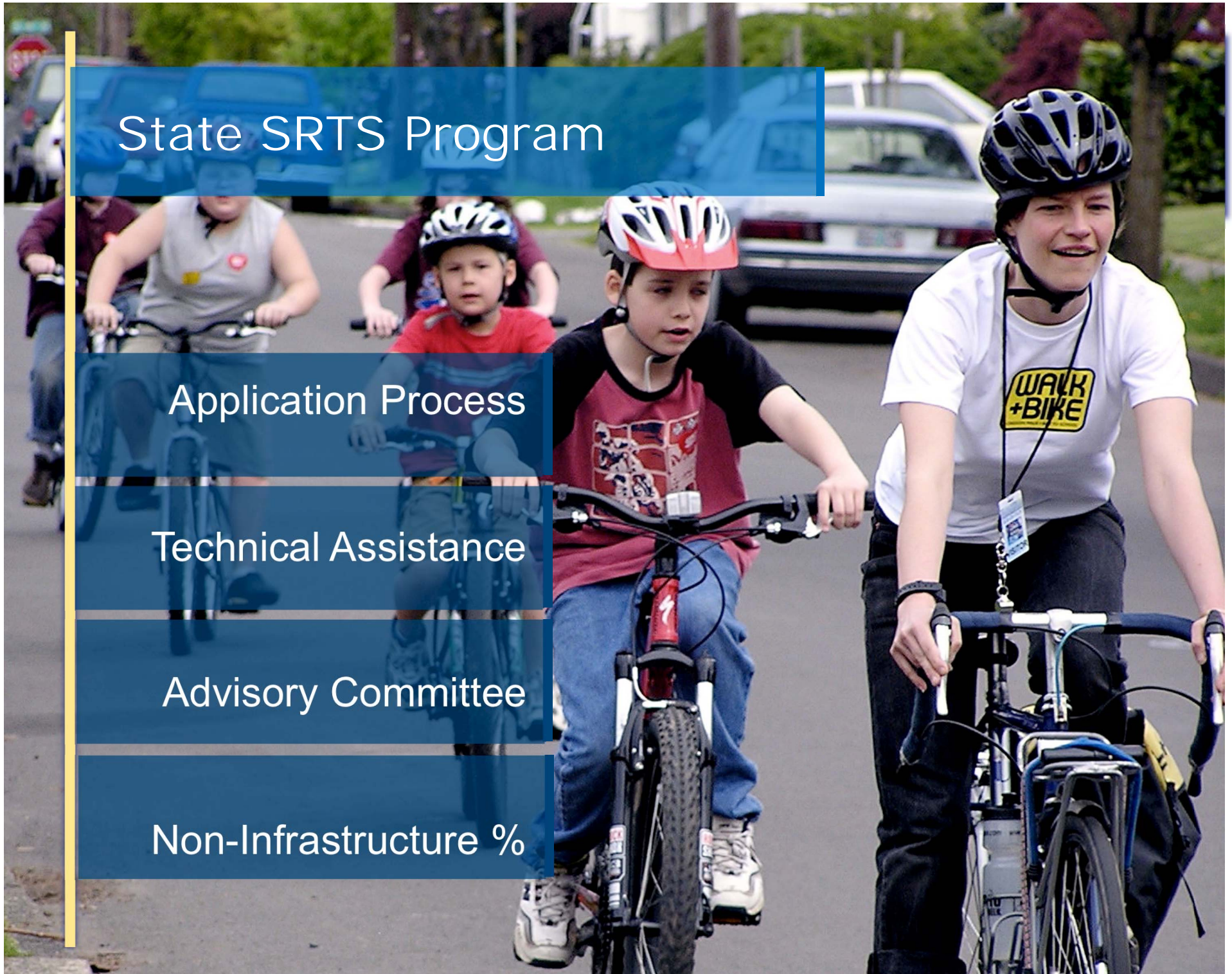
State SRTS Program

Application Process

Technical Assistance

Advisory Committee

Non-Infrastructure %





Additional Federal Funding

These flexible federal funds can be used for SRTS programs:

- ✦ Transportation Enhancements Program
- ✦ Surface Transportation Program
- ✦ Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program
- ✦ Equity Bonus Funds
- ✦ Highway Safety Improvement Program
- ✦ NHTSA 402 Traffic Safety funds



Local and State Funding Mechanisms

- Fine-Based, Sales Taxes:
 - Washington and Arizona (Hawaii?)
 - Portland, Oregon

School Siting: the 800 lb Gorilla...



School Siting: Neighborhood Schools

- No Minimum Acreage Standard
- Partner with City/County
- Joint-Use with Parks/Rec
- School as Center of Community



It's not just distance



Students who live within 1 mile and walk or bike:

2001: 33%

1969: 87%

(CDC, 2005)

Complete Streets

All Users

Many States, Cities

Senate Bill



completestreets.org



Low-Income, Personal Safety, Social Equity



Diverse, Community-Centered Schools Task Force

- National and local groups working together
- Bringing smart growth, development, housing, transportation, civil rights, health, education together
- Establish consensus statement
 - Develop policy ideas
 - Look for continued funding

▪

No Walking or Bicycling Policies



- Many principals are nervous about traffic safety or liability
- Some school districts have written policy against it
- Liability fear is largely unwarranted
- Resources available at saferoutespartnership.org



Local Examples: Bozeman, MT

Emily Dickinson Elementary SRTS Task Force - 2006

- **State SRTS program** infrastructure and non - \$56,322

City of Bozeman SRTS Assessment Project - \$20K

- **School Improvement Plans** - all seven elementary schools

Partnerships:

- Bozeman Area Bicycle Advisory Board - \$9,730
- Montana Physical Activity and Nutrition Program - \$1,500 workshop
- Downtown Tax Increment Finance Board - \$3,975
- Private donations from community - \$4,125

Policies:

- Principals - added bicycle pedestrian safety for all students
- Capital Improvement Plan - City added SRTS projects
- School Board - transition to neighborhood schools
- School District Wellness Advisory Council - SRTS added into policy





Thank you!



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