



Safe Routes to School National Partnership Training Committee Report Presented 11/7/07 at our Annual Meeting in Dearborn, MI

Introduction

Funding and policy changes on federal, state and local level are making Safe Routes to Schools more accessible to communities across the country. Training provides the tools to enable local communities to understand and implement the program.

The Safe Routes to School National Partnership conducted a survey to assess the extent of existing SRTS training programs and to assess the needs that may need to be filled. The survey was online through Survey Monkey from May 22 to June 8, 2007 and was composed of 35 questions. For a complete viewing of survey results, visit the survey report website at

http://www.surveymonkey.com/sr.aspx?sm=Q4VL6T4Pw9ri408cCSu_2b2DjAZHrh8wBW2XQjNtemE10_3d.

Overview

1. **Who responded to the survey?** Most frequent types of respondents to the survey represent bicycle and pedestrian advocacy groups, SRTS organizations/agencies, transportation professionals, and state government
2. **Who requests training?** Many requests for training are coming from school-based stakeholders (educators and parents) and community members, in addition to other stakeholder groups that have a disciplinary (e.g. planners and transportation) and/or funding interest. Respondent organizations are also receiving requests for training from outside their organization/agency and (apparently) from other types of stakeholder groups.
3. **Is the need being filled?** Respondent organizations/agencies that receive training requests generally provide the type of training that is being requested, mostly for basic training. 62% receive training requests and 52% provide training. Thirty four states have some kind of training program available within that state, either through the state agency, advocacy groups, or private contractors. Almost all states have organizations that need training
4. **Who offers training?** 92% of those offering trainings are non-profits. 60% are government entities, of which 40% are state, 4% federal and 15% are local. Almost 40% are from advocacy groups.

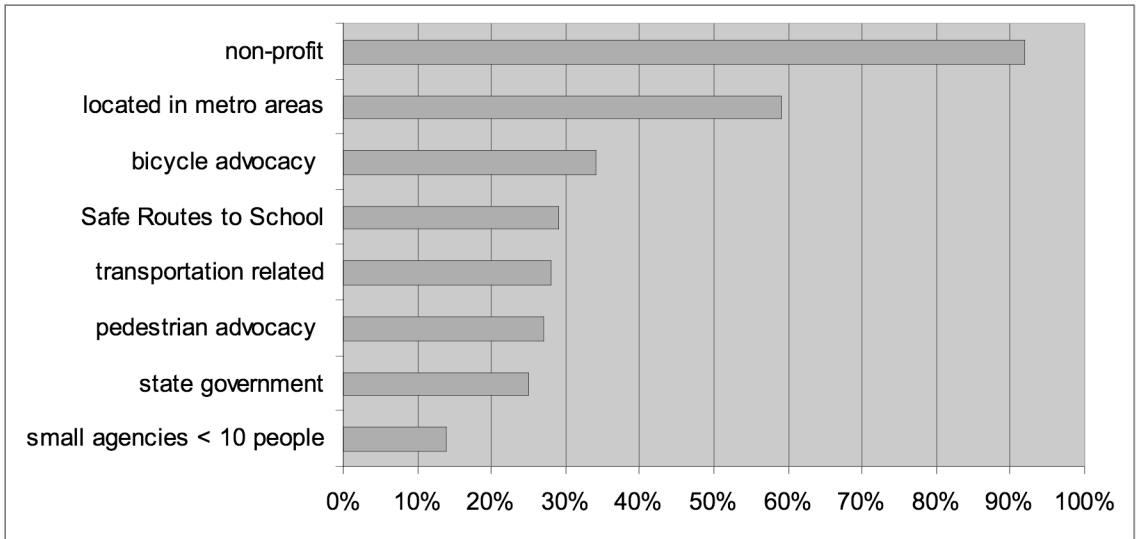
5. **What is being offered?** It appears, from the types of training provided which respondents report, that the majority of trainings cover general topics, with a minority of training offerings being more specialized or specific topics. Most effective method for delivering training: group interaction with PowerPoint second. People want take away materials, with equal requests for comprehensive training guides and specific topic handouts. 67% would like powerpoints presentations as hard copy and customizable materials.
6. **What is needed?** Of training needs reported by respondent organizations, 51% report SRTS team building/partnership development. The next most frequently reported training needs are reported by 30% -38% of respondents and are- with one exception- more specialized topics (i.e., 37% working with school administration, 36% funding opportunities, 36% using survey results for planning, 36% inclusive SRTS programs, 33% action planning, 30% urban SRTS programs). Thirty-eight percent of respondents also identified “how to develop a SRTS program” as a training need.
7. **How long are trainings?** The length of training varies from 1-4 hours for 40% of respondents with about 1/3 running from 6 hours to a full day. Two percent offer 2 day trainings and 20% of the trainings vary according to needs
8. **What do the trainings cost?** Most training are offered for free, either as part of the state agency overseeing Safe Routes to Schools or through a grant provided to the training agency. It is unknown if these trainings are ongoing or were part of a start-up operation.
9. **IS funding and location an issue?** Funding restrictions limit the ability of respondents to receive training. Over 60% would have funding restrictions. However 50% would not have travel restrictions if training were offered regionally.
10. **Topics included in training that is provided:**
 - **Over 70% include**
 - √ development of SRTS program
 - √ explanation SRTS
 - √ 5 Es
 - **Over 50% include**
 - √ funding opportunities
 - √ walk and bike to school day
 - √ parent surveys
 - √ student surveys
 - √ walkability audit
 - √ federal program
 - √ SRTS team building/partnership development
 - **Over 25% include**
 - √ Funding application (47%)
 - √ Action planning (41%)
 - √ Using survey results for planning (36%)
 - √ State coalition development (36%)
 - √ Urban programs (28%)
 - √ Rural programs (28%)
 - **Under 25% include**

- ✓ Inclusive SRTS programs –underserved and students with special needs- (19%)
- ✓ State coalition development (6%)
- ✓ Other category (16%)

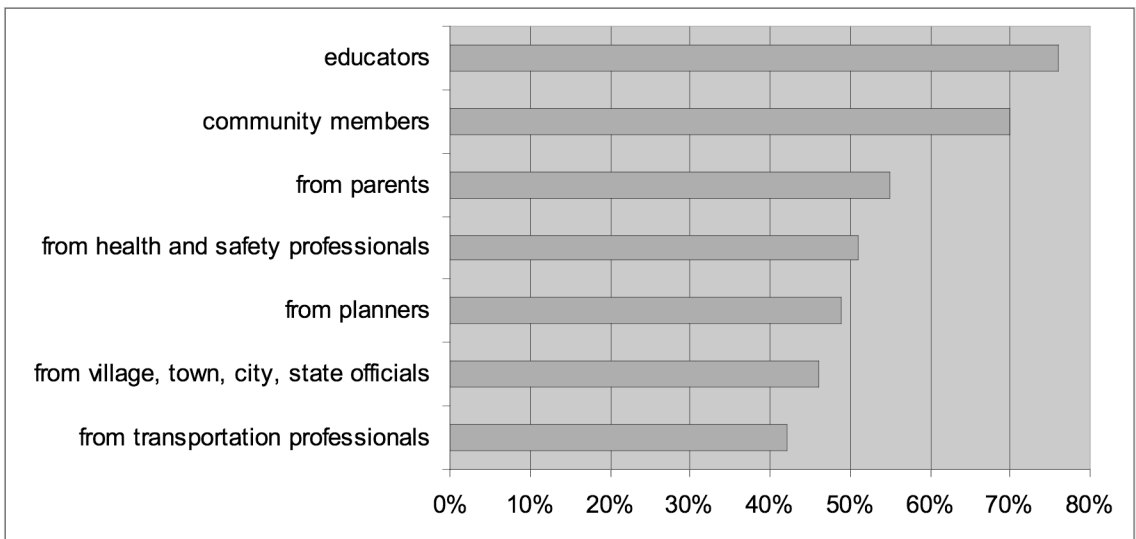
Charts

Note: Multiple responses to a number of survey questions were possible with the result that responses to these questions do not tally to zero.

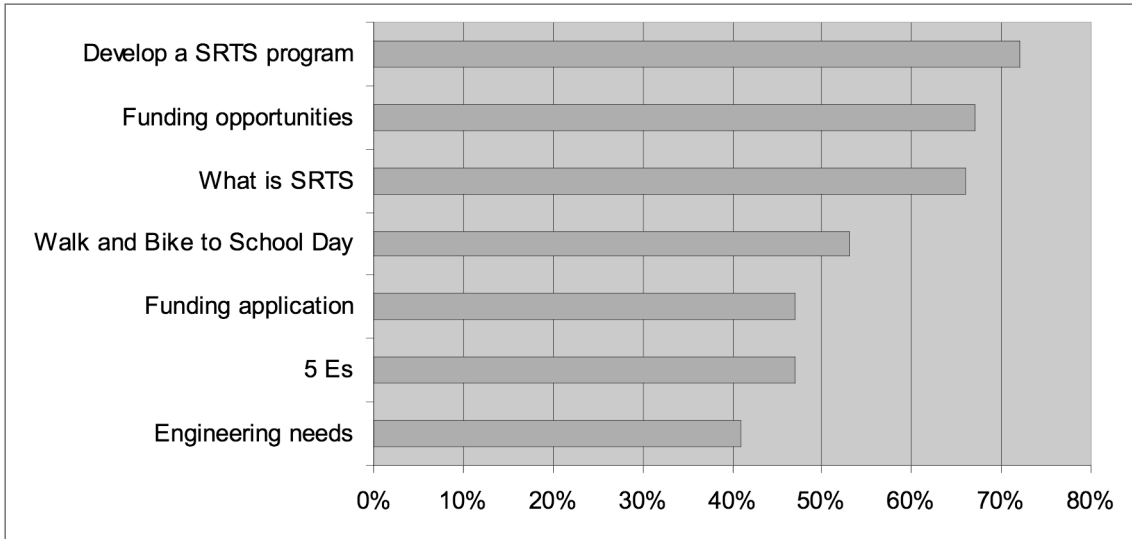
Number of respondents: 174



Who requests training:



Type of training requests that respondents receive from others:



Types of training needs of organizations themselves

