



Details on Forthcoming Rescissions for Safe Routes to School A maximum of 4.45% of a state's funding could be rescinded

September 21, 2009

In our last issue of E-News, the Safe Routes to School National Partnership notified you that a number of transportation programs are currently subject to rescissions. All state Departments of Transportation (DOTs) must return a portion of their federal transportation funds to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Generally, programs affected by the rescissions are losing approximately 5% of their total funds from FY2004-2009. While the rescissions situation is complicated for Safe Routes to School, we wanted to provide as much detail as possible for those Safe Routes to School (SRTS) supporters that are interested. Some in Congress are also pushing for a cancellation of all rescissions. Should this happen, state DOTs would be able to keep all of their currently allocated funding for SRTS and other transportation programs.

The Safe Routes to School program is placed in a special category for rescissions, along with two other transportation programs, the Appalachian Development Highway System and the Border Infrastructure Program. The total amount of funding that these three programs were allocated from FY04-09 was \$4.2 billion. Altogether, a total of \$189 million must be rescinded from these three programs across all states. Safe Routes to School is the smallest of the three programs, but is the only one of these three that provides funding in all 50 states and the District of Columbia (DC). In terms of allocations, specifically:

- Safe Routes to School: \$596 million for FY2005-2009 was provided to all states plus DC;
- Appalachian Development Highway System: 13 states received \$2.8 billion from FY2004-2009;
- Border Infrastructure Program: 15 states received \$831 million from FY2005-2009.

How are the rescissions calculated?

FHWA will distribute the rescission amount among the three programs in each state by calculating each program's share of unobligated balances as well as overall funding. Two separate calculations will be made.

- The first calculation will be based on the unobligated balances for all three programs. State DOTs have until September 25, 2009 to obligate funds (which means a state has already spent or contracted to spend the funds.) The amount of the rescission will be based on each program's share of unobligated balances. FHWA will make these calculations on September 26, 2009. So, states that have obligated most of their SRTS funds will see lower rescissions based on these calculations.
- In addition, SRTS rescissions cannot exceed a maximum amount. FHWA calculates that amount based on the proportion of SRTS funding as compared with total funding for SRTS, Appalachian and Border programs. In effect – the maximum amount that can be rescinded from SRTS in each state is equal 4.45% of a state's SRTS funding from FY05-09. We have prepared a table, included at the end of this memo, of the maximum amount each state can rescind from SRTS.
- If the first calculation, based on unobligated balances, is greater than the maximum – a state must rescind the higher amount, and then transfer funds from the Appalachian and Border accounts back to SRTS so that the amount of funding lost is no more than the maximum 4.45%.

- If the first calculation based on unobligated balances is lower than the maximum, the state can only rescind the amount based on the unobligated calculation.
- FHWA will issue a memo in late September instructing state DOTs about how much they must rescind based on unobligated balances, and (if applicable) how much money a state must shift back to SRTS to avoid exceeding the 4.45% maximum rescission.

What does this mean for my state?

The chart below includes specifics about each state. Please note that:

- There are 23 states plus the District of Columbia that do not receive funding through the Appalachian or Border programs. In these states, the amount to be rescinded can only come from the SRTS program—therefore, the maximum 4.45% will be rescinded from these states’ SRTS funding.
- There are 27 states that receive funding from one or both of the Appalachian and Border programs. In these states, the amount of the SRTS rescission will be determined later this month once the obligation figures are finalized. It can be no greater than the maximum 4.45% rescission, but could be less if the state has obligated much of their SRTS funds. These states are marked with asterisks in the SRTS rescissions table.

What’s Next?

The Safe Routes to School National Partnership will continue to work closely with FHWA to make sure that the memo that comes out later this month is clear on how much funding state DOTs can rescind from SRTS. We will also work with FHWA to ensure that no states rescind more than the maximum 4.45% of their SRTS funds. If you have any questions, please contact Margo Pedrosa, Deputy Director, Safe Routes to School National Partnership at margo@saferoutespartnership.org or 301-292-1043.

Table: State by State Rescissions for Safe Routes to School

STATE	Total Funding for SRTS, FY2005-2009	Maximum that can be rescinded from SRTS (4.45% of total funds)	States that also receive Appalachian or Border funds – rescissions may be less than the maximum in these states
ALABAMA	\$9,019,567	\$401,012.00	*
ALASKA	\$4,990,000	\$221,856.44	*
ARIZONA	\$11,295,446	\$502,198.20	*
ARKANSAS	\$5,936,987	\$263,960.00	
CALIFORNIA	\$67,518,011	\$3,001,867.00	*
COLORADO	\$8,713,500	\$387,404.00	
CONNECTICUT	\$6,965,637	\$309,694.00	
DELAWARE	\$4,990,000	\$221,857.00	
DIST. OF COL.	\$4,990,000	\$221,857.00	
FLORIDA	\$29,116,392	\$1,294,522.00	
GEORGIA	\$17,196,167	\$764,546.00	*

HAWAII	\$4,990,000	\$221,857.00	
IDAHO	\$4,990,000	\$221,856.40	*
ILLINOIS	\$23,267,399	\$1,034,474.00	
INDIANA	\$12,007,810	\$533,870.00	
IOWA	\$6,108,340	\$271,578.00	
KANSAS	\$6,014,510	\$267,406.00	
KENTUCKY	\$7,880,752	\$350,380.00	*
LOUISIANA	\$8,963,736	\$398,530.00	
MAINE	\$4,990,000	\$221,856.58	*
MARYLAND	\$10,331,284	\$459,331.00	*
MASSACHUSETTS	\$11,273,641	\$501,229.00	
MICHIGAN	\$18,819,192	\$836,705.86	*
MINNESOTA	\$9,569,264	\$425,451.92	*
MISSISSIPPI	\$6,506,087	\$289,262.00	*
MISSOURI	\$10,731,677	\$477,133.00	
MONTANA	\$4,990,000	\$221,856.53	*
NEBRASKA	\$5,013,931	\$222,921.00	
NEVADA	\$5,583,903	\$248,929.00	
NEW HAMPSHIRE	\$4,990,000	\$221,856.70	*
NEW JERSEY	\$15,883,526	\$706,185.00	
NEW MEXICO	\$5,112,276	\$227,292.95	*
NEW YORK	\$31,611,547	\$1,405,457.00	*
NORTH CAROLINA	\$15,593,698	\$693,300.00	*
NORTH DAKOTA	\$4,990,000	\$221,856.57	*
OHIO	\$20,511,387	\$911,941.00	*
OKLAHOMA	\$7,104,216	\$315,855.00	
OREGON	\$6,739,192	\$299,626.00	
PENNSYLVANIA	\$20,932,175	\$930,650.00	*
RHODE ISLAND	\$4,990,000	\$221,857.00	
SOUTH CAROLINA	\$8,152,897	\$362,480.00	*
SOUTH DAKOTA	\$4,990,000	\$221,857.00	
TENNESSEE	\$10,859,965	\$482,837.00	*
TEXAS	\$44,751,640	\$1,989,668.78	*
UTAH	\$6,137,904	\$272,893.00	
VERMONT	\$4,990,000	\$221,856.64	*
VIRGINIA	\$13,404,038	\$595,947.00	*
WASHINGTON	\$11,352,302	\$504,726.06	*
WEST VIRGINIA	\$4,990,000	\$221,857.00	*
WISCONSIN	\$10,175,004	\$452,383.00	
WYOMING	\$4,990,000	\$221,857.00	
TOTAL	\$596,015,000	\$26,499,640.63	