

We are pleased to announce that the new Illinois School Travel Plan is available today and that the 2008 planning cycle is now open! Please see below for information about the new School Travel Plan and the deadlines for the 2008 planning and application cycle.

SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN (STP)

Over the past several months, we have been hard at work updating the Illinois Safe Routes to School on-line system. We have incorporated the suggestions made by the public after the 2007 School Travel Plan and Application cycle and believe that you will find our updated STP easy and convenient to use when planning Safe Routes projects and programs for your schools and community.

* If you have previously approved plans, or had other plan data in the system, please note that all data that was in the system as of this morning is currently in the process of being transferred into the new system. This will be completed within a week.

The new STP is ready for immediate use, but two additional features will be added in the coming weeks. They are:

Clone Plan – If you had an approved School Travel Plan during the previous planning and application cycle, this is a way for the system to automatically generate a new plan for the 2008 cycle that will be pre-populated with the data from your approved 2007 STP. This is a tool to help your team have a foundation on which to build, improving and updating your previous plan with new data, information and solutions. We anticipate that this option will become available in the next week.

*Please note that, if you choose to use the clone plan function, you will still need to provide detailed updated information for the current plan cycle.

GIS Mapping – Online mapping will provide a way for you to show current and requested infrastructure in your community. This will allow you to show the improvements that you would like to see made within a two-mile radius of the impacted school. We expect GIS to become available within the month of May.

SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN (STP) AND FUNDING APPLICATION INFORMATION AND DEADLINES

The deadline for School Travel Plans to be submitted is 5:00 p.m. on September 30, 2008. Please remember that you must have an approved STP in order to access the Funding Application. The Funding Application cycle is set to open on August 1, 2008 and to close at 5:00 p.m. on October 31, 2008.

I will review and provide feedback on completed School Travel Plans submitted on or before 5:00 p.m. on Monday, September 22nd. You will have the option to edit and resubmit your plan based upon that feedback. This option will only be provided to School Travel Plans submitted on or before 5:00 p.m. on September 22nd. Plans submitted after that time will either be Approved or Rejected, with no option to resubmit. All plans for the 2008 cycle must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. on September 30, 2008.

We hope that you will enjoy navigating the new School Travel Plan.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me!

Thanks!
Megan

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