

Texas Department of Transportation
is pleased to sponsor the presentation of the
Texas Safe Routes to School Course
for

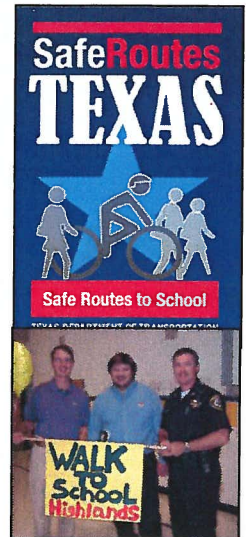
Shadycrest Elem School

Workshop location:

Pearland City Hall – Council Chambers

3519 Liberty Dr
Pearland, TX 77581

Friday, September 14, 2012
8:30 AM – 4:30 PM



Join community leaders, school officials, health and transportation professionals, law enforcement officers, parents and neighbors for the counties of Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Montgomery and Waller that make up the Houston TxDOT District for this opportunity.

Communities around the country are using Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Programs to make it more safe and appealing for children to walk and bicycle to school. TxDOT has recognized the value of SRTS Programs and is providing funding to train schools, cities, communities, counties, and residents about the development of SRTS Programs.

SRTS Programs grow from the community concerns about safety, health, and traffic. A combination of education, encouragement, engineering and enforcement strategies are used to address these concerns and make Safe Routes to School a reality.

This course provides participants with the knowledge and skills to develop sound SRTS Programs based on community needs and conditions, best practices and responsible use of resources. The day concludes with participants developing an action plan.

Overview of course agenda

- Why Safe Routes to School matters: Safety, health and transportation issues
- Engineering strategies
- Field exercise of school campus and surrounding area
- Perspectives from local stakeholders
- Pick-up and drop-off strategies
- Identification of problems and solutions
- Encouragement and Education strategies
- Enforcement strategies
- An action plan for your community

This course is offered **FREE OF CHARGE**,
ADVANCE REGISTRATION is REQUIRED
Lunch and snacks to be provided
Course size is limited, so please register
early by contacting:

Mike Cynecki, P.E

mcynecki@lee-eng.com

602-443-8476

or

James Keener

James.Keener@TxDOT.gov

The Texas Safe Routes to School Course is developed from material provided by the National Center for Safe Routes to School. The original material was developed by the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center through a partnership of funding from the Federal Highway Administration, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Environmental Protection Agency.



City, PISD looking into Safe Routes to School programs

By KIM STRUBE
Reporter News Staff

To encourage children to adopt a more healthy and active lifestyle by walking or riding their bikes to school, communities throughout Texas and the U. S. have been implementing the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program to make the trek to their campuses more safe and appealing.

City and school officials from Pearland, Brookside Village and Pasadena attended a workshop at Pearland City Hall on Sept. 14 to learn more about how to develop such a program within their own areas.

Sponsored by the Texas Department of Transportation, the program highlighted traffic engineering and enforcement strategies, pick-up and drop-off suggestions, encouragement

and education techniques, safety/health issues and more.

The event also had officials participate in a field exercise at a local school and work on an action plan for their community.

"We actually went to a school site to conduct an observation of the school transportation environment," said Joel Hardy, grants coordinator with the City of Pearland's Department of Finance who will be overseeing the grant application for the program. "We're looking into funding to implement a SRTS program in partnership with PISD."

Part of the application requirement, Hardy said, is to already have a formal action plan.

"We'll be working in concert with PISD and other officials to formulate a pro-

posal," he added.

"We're in the process of trying to narrow down the areas we will be focusing on for the program," said Keith Ordeneaux, who attended the workshop in the dual role as energy and risk manager for PISD and as a city councilmember.

In Texas, over \$54 million was allocated to over 73 communities for 200 such projects in 2009. Successful initiatives utilize the support of entire communities – parents, teachers, motorists, businesses, government, law enforcement, etc. – in addition to the students.

Over the years, studies have shown that students are walking and biking less to school which can have adverse effects on health, pedestrian safety and traffic congestion/air quality near schools.

"There's a real change in

our society that very few children are walking or biking to school and at the same time there's an obesity crisis and the (SRTS) program is intended to break bad habits and at the same time make schools more walkable," said Mike Cynecki, a master instructor for the National Safe Routes to School and project manager for Lee Engineering, LLC.

Cynecki has taught the SRTS course all over the U. S., including as far away as Rhode Island, Alaska and Hawaii.

According to Cynecki, implementation of the program has an added benefit of impacting entire communities.

"When we make it safe for kids to walk to school, we also make it safe for others to walk in the neighborhood," he stated.

NO



PEARL DIAMOND

- *Gold
- *Silver
- *Watch

High

Guaranteed

Hours: 8 am-8 pm

3712 East Br
Pearland, TX