

# MINI GRANTS

SAFE ROUTES to SCHOOL program



## Mini Grants provide assistance to schools, PTAs, and community groups

All state-approved K-12 schools located within the City of Seattle are eligible to apply. Schools that received Mini Grants in the past are eligible to apply again if end of year reports have been completed.

Groups can request up to \$1,000 to be spent within up to two years. Funds must be used for programs that improve conditions for walkers and bikers or encourage more kids to ride their bikes or walk to school.

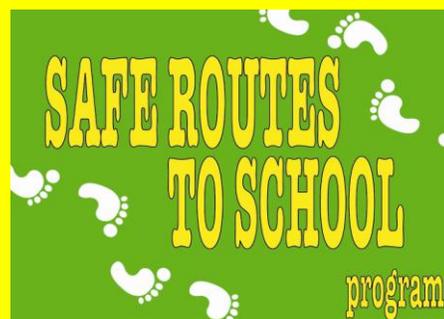
To apply, follow these simple steps:

- Complete the Mini-Grant Application and submit by November 2, 2012
- Recipients will be selected by December 3, 2012.
- Funding distributed after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013
- Follow-up: Prepare an end of year summary with photos and 1-page report of how funds were used.

**After three years of encouraging walking and biking to school, Bryant Elementary has increased the percent of kids walking and biking to school from 11 percent to 33 percent and reduced driving from 66 percent to 54 percent!**

## RECEIVE SUPPORT FOR:

- *Student Patrol*
- *School Speed Zone Awareness*
- *Pedestrian Safety Activities*
- *Traffic Circulation Improvements*
- *Walking School Bus*
- *Crossing Flags*
- *Bike Safety Education*
- *Bike Rodeos*
- *Bike Parking at School*



# MINI GRANT APPLICATION

To apply for a Seattle Safe Routes to School Mini Grant, enter your contact information, tell us how much money you need and answer the five questions below.

The deadline for us to receive your application is November 3, 2012.

Send via mail or email to:

Seattle Department of Transportation  
Attention: Brian Dougherty  
P.O. Box 34996  
Seattle, WA 98124-4996  
[brian.dougherty@seattle.gov](mailto:brian.dougherty@seattle.gov)

|  |  |
|--|--|
| School or Group Name:                  | Eckstein Bikes! (Eckstein Middle School PTSA)                    |
| Type of Group: (i.e. School, PTA, etc) | PTSA   |
| Group Leader Name:                     | Clint Loper  |
| Group Leader Phone Number:             | 206-724-5526   |
| Group Leader Email Address:            | <a href="mailto:clint.loper@gmail.com">clint.loper@gmail.com</a> |
| Alternate Contact Name:                | Leslie Loper   |
| Alternate Contact Phone Number:        | 206-853-3406   |
| Alternate Contact Email Address:       | <a href="mailto:leslie.loper@bush.edu">leslie.loper@bush.edu</a> |
| Amount Requested (up to \$1,000):      | \$1,000  |



## MINI GRANT APPLICATION (use back side if necessary)

### 1. Describe the way your group will use these funds.

We propose to use these mini-grant funds to create incentives and provide support for Eckstein students choosing to make sustainable transportation choices, with a particular focus on increasing the number of students who bike commute to school. Specifically, grant funds will be used to develop and purchase promotional materials, signage, reward prizes and incentives, and safety equipment. The program will build on the success of 2012, its first year in existence, in which bike-to-school numbers increased from a handful of students to an average of 40 per day in the Fall of 2012. Rather than primarily focus on Bike to School Month in May, once again the program will have an all-school-year focus with an added emphasis and connection to Cascade's Bike to School program in May.

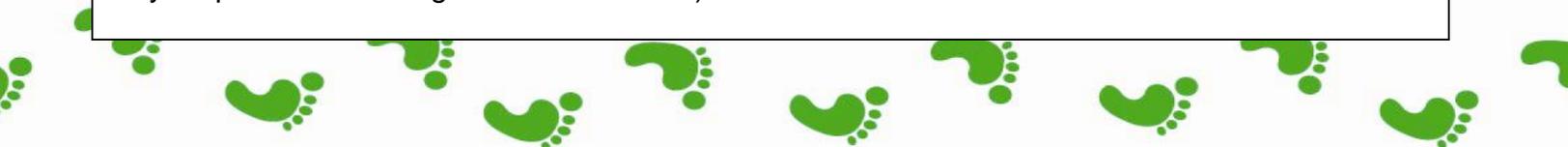
To leverage these funds and our program, Eckstein also plans to continue to share information with other schools who are considering similar programs. We have found a dearth of effective Safe Routes to School programs at the middle school level, and will be working to share our successes and challenges with other middle schools to increase biking and walking to school citywide. We will also continue to coordinate closely with "feeder" elementary schools in the NE cluster, and we plan to initiate coordination with leaders at Roosevelt High School as well. We have found that coordination within a geographic cluster creates a synergy of related programs that leads to a higher degree of success in terms of the numbers of students and families who participate in bike and walk to school programs, and the continuity of their participation as students matriculate to higher levels of school.

This enhanced coordination will occur through evening meetings, participation in other schools' events, and multi-school events. The Eckstein Bikes! Program will also continue to use facebook, twitter, and other social media, along with creative graphics to increase enthusiasm for the program, and to share what we are doing within the Eckstein school community, as well as with other schools and local community groups interested in sustainable transportation.

The specific program elements to be funded through mini-grant funds include:

#### Recognition and Incentives for Bike Commuters (estimated cost \$400)

We plan to create incentives and recognition to encourage more students to ride their bikes to school. We will once again host treat and/or prize days at least once each in the fall and winter, and likely 2-3 times in the spring. These events will encourage students to ride by creating a supportive community of student commuters, maintaining momentum and reinforcing riding throughout the year. The fall and winter events will also help student commuters learn to safely negotiate the weather and darkness patterns during the late fall, winter, and early spring. These incentive days typically involve providing treats and a hot or cold beverage depending on the season. They also offer an opportunity for parent volunteers (most of whom are experienced transportation cyclists) to offer advice and guidance, and to provide any needed gear to the student commuters. Examples of this include front and rear lights, helmets, bike pumps, etc. (Much of the gear is donated, though critical and cost effective safety gear such as bike lights may be purchased with grant funds as well.)



### Larger Bike to School Events (estimated cost \$300)

In 2013, we expect to hold one or two larger bike to school events to reach the broader student community and to showcase the potential for more sustainable commuting habits. These may include one or more workshops, education events, bike rodeos, and/or after school bike-to-school celebrations. We will also look for ways to reach out to parents through curriculum nights, orientation events, and regular electronic media. Funding will pay for outreach materials, incentives and/or prizes, safety information, and potentially a guest speaker or education trainer (An “Undriving” event is one possibility, as an example).

### Education, Safety Information and Training, and Other Support for Interested Commuters

(estimated cost \$300)

Prospective commuters to Eckstein will need information regarding safe routes to school and safe bicycling techniques, help dealing with bike mechanical issues, support in determining the gear they need to bike safely, etc. The program will provide promotional materials, signage, and flyers to inform students and the broader community of the program, as well as maps and safety tips to the students. This may also include safety-related signage and/or flagging near the school and at key traffic and crossing locations, building on support we received in 2012 from SDOT to upgrade two crossings. We will also explore the potential for more hands-on safety support to actually provide some training in safe bike riding skills, in the form of a bike rodeo or possibly group rides with peers and adults.

Total Grant Request \$1,000

## 2. How will this project improve pedestrian and bicycle safety at your school?

This project will directly improve pedestrian and bicycle safety at and near our school by reducing car traffic through increased numbers of students who walk and bike to school, as well as by providing education regarding safe biking and walking routes and practices. When more kids walk and bike they are more visible to drivers, drivers are more likely to expect and prepare for pedestrians and cyclists, there are fewer drivers around the school, and it is safer for everyone. We will build on the successful first year of the “Eckstein Bikes!” program, as well as Safe Routes to School programs in several of the elementary schools in Northeast Seattle, including Bryant, Thornton Creek, and Laurelhurst.

Our program will include distribution of safety information for student bikers, and some events may also include bicycle safety training and practice in the form of bicycle rodeos and similar activities. A portion of the funding may also be used to purchase and implement safety-related signage and/or flagging near the school and at key traffic and crossing locations, building on a 2012 upgrade at one key intersection (a new painted crosswalk) and a planned upgrade (new flashing lights) at another in 2013. If funding is available this grant funding may also allow the purchase and installation of safety upgrades on school grounds (e.g., paint and signage) for challenging bike and motor vehicle interaction points such as the shared entrance to the Eckstein bike parking area and the rear car parking lot.



### 3. How will these funds encourage more children to walk or bike?

At Eckstein, many students are driven to school, creating significant traffic congestion and safety and air quality concerns. Over the past year we have seen this begin to improve, though at a school of over 1300 enrollment there is still a ways to go.

While some students walk or bike, these numbers can be increased, and the inaugural year of the Eckstein Bikes! Program contributed to ridership increasing from a handful of students to an average of 40 per day. We are beginning to see biking to school become part of the school culture (the student government helped sponsor one event last year; the school administration is a full partner in these efforts), and in 2013 we plan to further build on this.

These funds will encourage more children to walk or bike to school by providing direct support in the form of safety equipment, route-finding information, trouble-shooting of mechanical problems, etc., as well as incentives to students who choose to bike. Some incentives are direct such as offering treats, prizes, small equipment, etc. Some are less tangible but perhaps more powerful: the sense of community that is created by recognizing the students who bike and making it a fun and accepted part of the school culture. The goal is to further increase the number of students interested in and willing to try this alternative to the point where bike commuting becomes less of a fringe activity and more of a mainstream, peer-accepted means of getting to and from school.

The middle school age group is well-suited for encouraging safe, sustainable transportation. These children are capable of independent transportation, and with some knowledge, infrastructure, and encouragement, can incorporate biking and walking into their school commutes and their daily lives.

Ultimately, our goal is to create a sense of community and culture around non-motorized transportation and for Eckstein students to feel that bike commuting is a fun, safe option for getting to and from school. We hope that this will lead to students beginning to incorporate biking and walking into their daily transportation routines rather than just occasionally, or for recreation. An all-year focus will help students experience that non-motorized commuting even in inclement weather can be safe and fun, and will also provide opportunities for newer bikers to learn from those with more experience about gear that may help them bike to school more frequently.

Our hope is that the more the kids get out of their cars to make the short trips to and from school, the more confident they will become to expand their biking and walking to other areas of their life, for example going to the grocery store or a soccer practice, thus driving less and making our roads safer by having less vehicles on them.

### 4. Please estimate the timeline to implement this project.

These funds will provide a full year of "Safe Routes to School" programming, from January to December 2013.

5. Finally, please attach a letter of support from your school principal. [letter attached]

