



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Fort Collins, Loveland Receive Money to Make Walking, Biking Safer for Kids and Families**

Larimer County - Walking and cycling soon will become safer modes of transportation for kids and families in northern Colorado. The Cities of Loveland and Fort Collins received a combined \$260,000 from the Colorado Department of Transportation's Colorado Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program to put into action comprehensive projects that will engage school children to walk and bike to school.

The City of Loveland will use its SRTS funds to construct a critical missing link of sidewalk on the north side of Truscott Elementary, plus provide crossing improvements and "traffic-calming" curb extensions within the school zone on busy Garfield Avenue. Funds also will be used to support the Tires-n-Tennies (T-n-T) Tuesday Program for a fourth consecutive year. T-n-T Tuesday's is an educational/encouragement program focused on: empowering students and families to enhance their physical, environmental and mental health; teaching pedestrian and bicycling skills to students and families; and improving neighborhood safety and traffic conditions.

"Our educational/encouragement program has expanded to include new schools each year and our surveys reveal that more and more students are walking or riding to school," said Derek Schuler, civil engineer with the Loveland Public Works Traffic Division. "The addition of the infrastructure project this year will improve safety for many of those students."

The City of Fort Collins will use its funds to continue a robust safe walking and bicycling education program in all elementary and middle schools in the City and install 20 high-capacity bike racks at various schools to keep pace with growth in cyclists.

(more)

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“We’re very excited to expand our offerings of safe cycling and walking education,” said Matt Wempe, Fort Collins Safe Routes to School coordinator. “Parent, teacher and student response to the program in the past has been so positive. This is a great chance to improve Fort Collins’ walking and bicycling environment.”

Helping with both city’s SRTS efforts together is the Bicycle and Pedestrian Education Coalition (BPEC). BPEC, through education and encouragement, works to reduce the number of motor vehicle/bicycle/pedestrian crashes in our community, and increase knowledge and awareness about how to safely share roads. It also works to increase the number of bicycle riders and pedestrians in the community, nurturing health and wellness.

BPEC members include representatives from Bike Fort Collins, Boys & Girls Clubs of Larimer County, City of Fort Collins, City of Fort Collins Police Department, City of Loveland, CSU Colorado Injury Control Research Center, CSU Police Department, Fort Collins Bicycle Co-op, Fort Collins Cycling Club, Loveland Pedal Club, Poudre School District, PVHS Ambulance Service, Safe Kids Larimer County and Thompson School District. BPEC was established in fall 2009 and is coordinated by the Healthier Communities Coalition of Larimer County.

For additional information or to get involved, visit these websites:

Bicycle and Pedestrian Education Coalition – [www.healthylarimer.org/bpec.shtml](http://www.healthylarimer.org/bpec.shtml)  
City of Fort Collins Safe Routes to School Program – [www.fcgov.com/saferoutes/](http://www.fcgov.com/saferoutes/)  
City of Loveland Public Works -  
[www.ci.loveland.co.us/PublicWorks/Traffic/SafeRoutes](http://www.ci.loveland.co.us/PublicWorks/Traffic/SafeRoutes)  
Colorado Safe Routes to School - [www.saferoutesinfo.org](http://www.saferoutesinfo.org)

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