



Budget Brief: Sidewalk Construction

SUMMARY

The purpose of the Sidewalk Construction Program of the Department of Transportation is to fund the cost of correcting pedestrian hazards and other safety projects on State highways.

ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Department of Transportation has been appropriated funds annually for its sidewalk safety program. These funds are then obligated for pedestrian safety projects when matched with funding from local governments. The current formula for distribution of appropriated Sidewalk Program Funds is based on three areas of criteria. Population estimates make up 25% of the formula. School enrollments for the previous school year making up another 25%, with pedestrian accidents on state highways make up the remaining 50% of the criteria.

The base budget for FY 2010 is \$500,000.

Intent Language

The following intent language was included in the appropriation for the Sidewalk line item in FY 2009. It is the opinion of the Analyst that this intent is being followed and will be recommended in a subsequent appropriations bill.

The Legislature intends that the funds appropriated from the Transportation Fund for pedestrian safety projects be used specifically to correct pedestrian hazards on State highways.

The Legislature also intends that local authorities be encouraged to participate in the construction of pedestrian safety devices. The appropriated funds are to be used according to the criteria set forth in Section 72-8-104, Utah code Annotated, 1953. The funds appropriated for sidewalk construction shall not lapse. If local governments cannot use their allocation of Sidewalk Safety Funds in two years, these funds will be available for other governmental entities which are prepared to use the resources. It is the intent of the Legislature that local participation in the Sidewalk Construction Program be on a 75% state and 25% local match basis.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

The base budget for FY 2010 for the Sidewalk line item is \$500,000.