

Maryland Safe Routes to School Program

Joy Marowski, Deputy Chief

Joe Pelaia, SRTS Program Coordinator

Maryland Highway Safety Office

Baltimore Metropolitan Council

November 27, 2007



Description

- The State of Maryland is a new participant in the Federal Highway Administration's Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program, in which federal funding is awarded by the Maryland Highway Safety Office (MHHSO) of the Maryland Department of Transportation's State Highway Administration on an annual basis.

The *SRTS* Program:

- Brings together parents, school administrators and teachers, along with other community groups and agencies, to **improve the safety** of children who walk or bicycle to school.
- **Enables and encourages** children in grades K-8, including those with physical limitations, to walk and bicycle to school.

The *SRTS* Program (continued):

- Makes walking and bicycling to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, encouraging a **healthy and active lifestyle** from a very early age.
- **Facilitates projects and activities** that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption and air pollution in the vicinity of elementary and middle schools.

SRTS Grant Years

- Grant Year A 04/20/07 - 9/30/08
- Grant Year B 10/01/07 - 9/30/09
- Grant Year C 10/01/08 – 9/30/10

Facts:

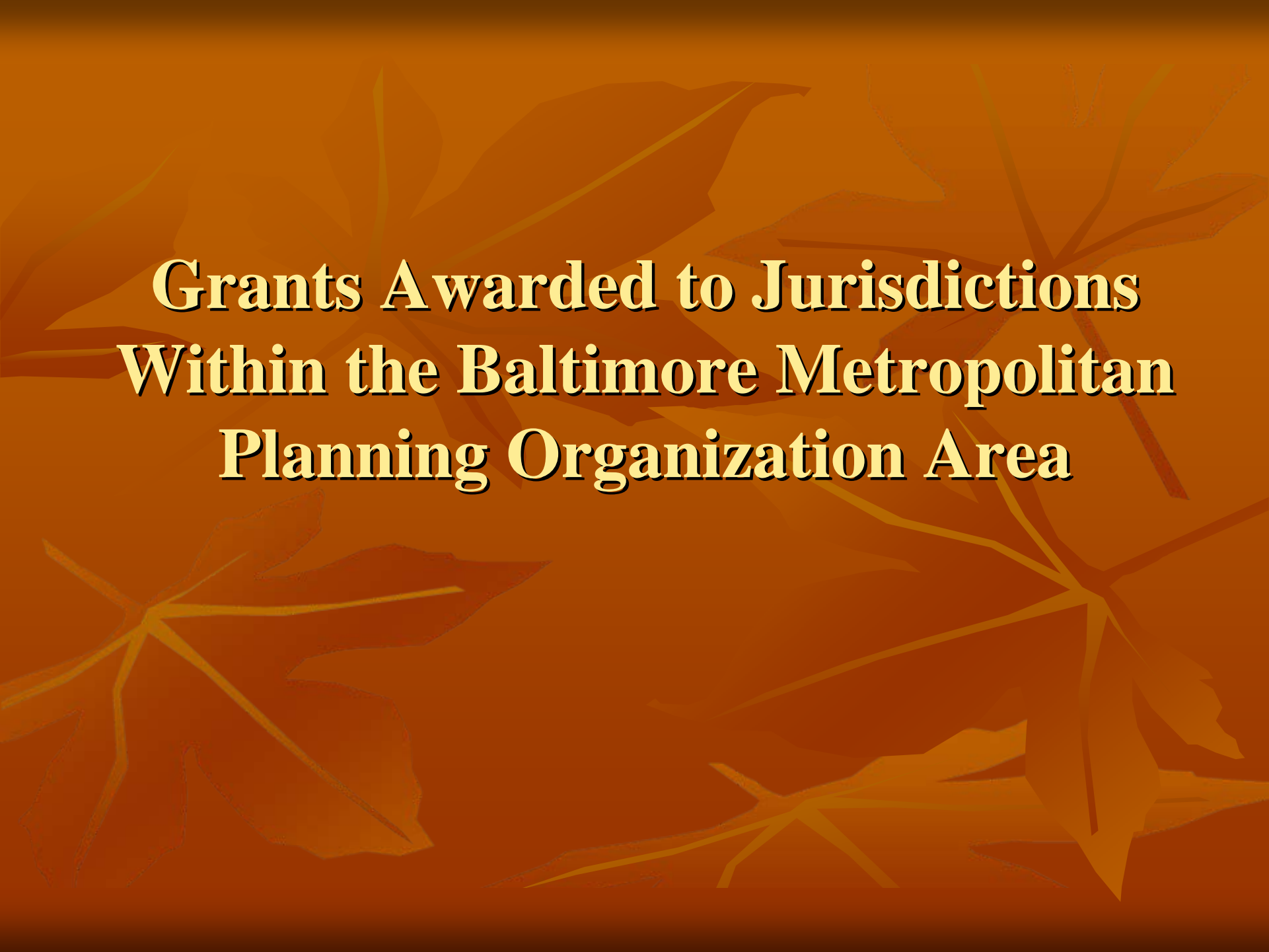
	Total \$	Projects	Jurisdictions	Schools	Students
■ Grant Year A:	\$3,670,200	17	15	118	47,380
■ Grant Year B:	\$3,158,700	17	15	100	28,584
■ Totals:	\$6,828,900	32	33	218	75,964

The Process:

- Grants are distributed to state, local and regional agencies, as well as non-profit organizations.
- In order to apply for SRTS funds, an organization representative must attend a Grant Application Seminar (GAS).
- The next GAS-SRTS is scheduled for Thursday, February 21, 2008 from 9:00am – 3:00pm at the Maritime Institute in Linthicum, MD.

Process (continued):

- Once the EOI is submitted, it will be reviewed by a 10 member panel. The panel will recommend to either fully fund the project, partially fund it, or not to fund it at all.
- The final decision is made by SHA Administrator Neil Pedersen.



**Grants Awarded to Jurisdictions
Within the Baltimore Metropolitan
Planning Organization Area**

Awards

- Anne Arundel
- GYA \$28,900
- GYB \$63,800

■ Total \$92,700

- Baltimore City
- GYA \$720,700
- GYB \$555,600

■ Total \$1,276,300

Awards Continued I

- Baltimore County
 - GYA \$243,800
 - GYB \$0
 - Total \$243,800
- Carroll County
 - GYA \$26,200
 - GYB \$142,000
 - Total \$168,200

Awards Continued II

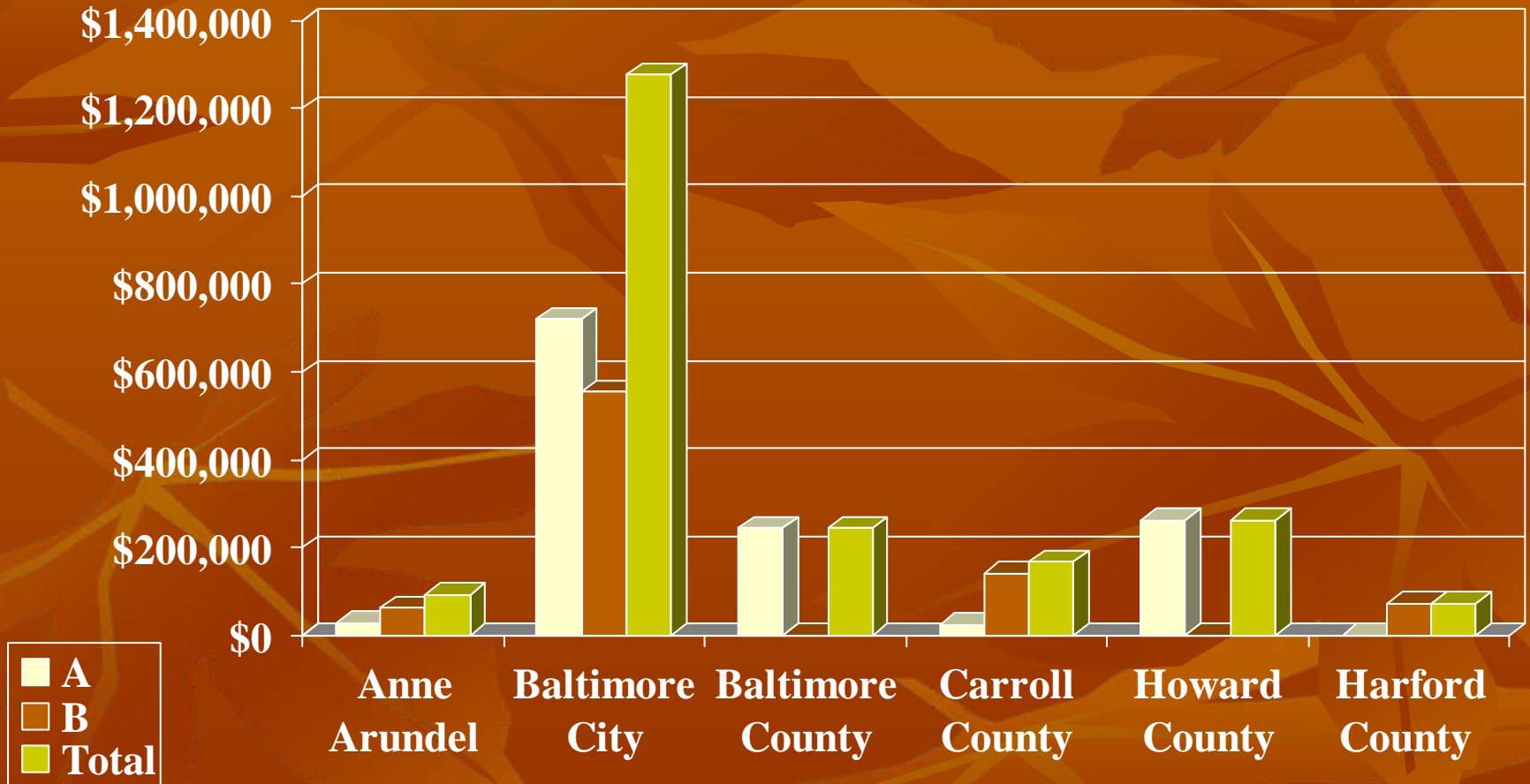
- Howard County
- GYA \$262,000
- GYB \$0

■ Total \$262,000

- Harford County
- GYA \$0
- GYA \$37,100

■ Total \$37,100

Total Award: \$2,080,100



Why Have a SRTS Program?

- As traffic volumes have increased, parents have felt less comfortable letting their children walk or ride bicycles to school.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), 85 percent of children's trips to school are made by car or school bus; only 13 percent of school trips are made by walking or bicycling.

Continued I

- The increase in car trips to schools has added to growing traffic congestion, which creates gridlock near school drop-off and pick-up lines; other drivers stuck in these traffic jams become impatient, even angry, which fuels aggressive driving.
- Walking to school helps children feel more connected to their community and increases their confidence that school is a safe place for learning.

Continued II

- Teachers report that students who walk and bike to school arrive more alert and ready to work.
- On average, 100 people die each year in pedestrian-related incidents in Maryland.
- In 2006, more than 690 pedestrians younger than 16 were struck by motor vehicles in Maryland.

Continued III

- SRTS funds can be used for engineering improvements, such as upgrades to crosswalks, traffic signals and signage around schools, (infrastructure), as well as for educational and enforcement efforts (non infrastructure).
- Cannot be used for reoccurring cost such as salaries for Crossing Guards.
- Can be used for training and equipment.

Continued IV

- All projects must take place within 2 miles of a K-8 school (except non infrastructure)!
- Projects are 100% funded, but are reimbursable in nature (not up front funds).

The MHSO encourages the BMC to work with partner agencies to increase proposals being submitted from the Baltimore Metropolitan region...and looks forward to a continued relationship!

Questions?

For More Information:

Mr. Joe Pelaia
SRTS Coordinator – MHSO
410.787.7620
jpelaia@sha.state.md.us

Ms. Laurie Dell
SRTS Grants Manager – MHSO
410.787.4079
ldell@sha.state.md.us