



**Council
Communication**
Office of the City Manager

Date

September 25, 2006

Agenda Item No. 29
Roll Call No. 06-
Communication No. 06-613
Submitted by: **Jeb E. Brewer, P.E.**
City Engineer

AGENDA HEADING:

Authorizing “Safe Routes to School” (SRTS) Fund Applications to the Iowa Department of Transportation.

SYNOPSIS:

The Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) administers an annual “Safe Routes to Schools” (SRTS) program. This is the first year of the program, and the deadline for local jurisdictions to apply for funding is October 2, 2006. In conjunction with the Des Moines School District, city staff has developed a project that would enhance school crossings at signalized intersections. The estimated project cost is \$250,000, all of which would be requested from the SRTS program funding. Staff recommends approval and authorization to submit an application to the IDOT for Safe Routes to School Funds for this project.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: The project is eligible for 100% federal funding. No local match is required.

Funding Source: The project would be 100% federally funded. Incidental costs would be paid from the City’s operating budget.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The 2005 Federal Transportation Act (SAFETEA-LU: Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for User) authorizes and provides annual funding for a program entitled “Safe Routes to School” (SRTS). The Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) administers this program, which will fund approximately \$1 million annually for Iowa. This year’s project applications must be submitted to the Iowa DOT by October 2, 2006 to be considered.

This new program is intended to enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school; to make walking and bicycling to school safe and more appealing; and to facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of projects that will provide safety, and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools.

In cooperation with the Des Moines School District, staff has reviewed potential candidates for funding for this program, and recommends that the following project be submitted for this year’s funding cycle.

Enhanced School Crossings at Signalized Intersections

This project will provide a multi-faceted approach to improve safety for school children crossing the city street system as they walk/bike to and from elementary and middle schools. Traffic signals where adult school crossing guards are assigned would be targeted by this project. Phase 1 would include the installation of enhanced pavement markings and pedestrian signals with “count-down” timers. Phase 2 would consist of an educational program within the schools that would provide information to the schoolchildren and parents on safety at street crossings. The estimated project cost is \$250,000, which would be requested from SRTS funds.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Approval of future project agreements with the Iowa Department of Transportation.