



Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date

August 6, 2007

Agenda Item No. 10
Roll Call No. 07-
Communication No. 07-478
Submitted by: **Jeb E. Brewer, P.E.**
City Engineer

AGENDA HEADING:

Authorize the City Manager to submit "Safe Routes to School" (SRTS) Fund Applications to the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT).

SYNOPSIS:

The IDOT administers an annual SRTS program. 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 \$140,000, all of which would be requested from the SRTS program funding. An application would need to be submitted to the IDOT for SRTS funds for this project.

FISCAL IMPACT:

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

Funding Source: The construction costs for the project would be 100% federally funded. The City is responsible for design and construction administration costs which would be budgeted in the CIP under City-Wide Signals, Channelization, and School Crossing Protection Program, TFC091, Page Traffic-5."

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The 2005 Federal Transportation Act (SAFETEA-LU: Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users) authorizes and provides annual funding for a program entitled "Safe Routes to School" (SRTS). The IDOT administers this program, which will fund approximately \$1 million annually for Iowa. This year's project applications must be submitted to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) by August 24, 2007 to be considered.

This federal funding 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.

Last year, in cooperation with the Des Moines School District, the City submitted a project that involved (1) crosswalk enhancements at locations where adult guards were in place, and (2) an educational program within the schools that would provide information to the schoolchildren and parents on safety at street crossings. Last year's project, at an estimated cost of \$250,000, was partially funded by the IDOT, with \$125,748 being approved. Staff recommends that a similar project be submitted for this year, to include the portion of the project that was not funded last year, with the following being submitted:

Enhanced School Crossings at Signalized Intersections

This project will provide a multi-faceted approach to improve safety for schoolchildren 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 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 \$140,000, which would be requested from SRTS funds.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: September 25, 2006

Roll Call: [06-1883](#)

Action: “SAFE ROUTE TO SCHOOL” (SRTS) Fund Applications to the Iowa Department of Transportation to be used for Enhanced School Crossings at Signalized Intersections, estimated amount of \$250,000. ([Council Communication No. 06-613](#)) Moved by Vlassis to adopt. Motion Carried 6-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

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