

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Council Communication</b> Office of the City Manager</p>	<b>Date</b>	September 28, 2009
	<b>Agenda Item No.</b> <u>35</u> <b>Roll Call No.</b> <u>09-</u> <b>Communication No.</b> <u>09-685</u> <b>Submitted by:</b> <b>Jeb E. Brewer, P.E.</b> <span style="padding-left: 100px;">City Engineer</span>	

**AGENDA HEADING:**

Authorize the City Manager to submit a “Safe Routes to School” (SRTS) Fund Application to the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT).

**SYNOPSIS:**

Recommend approval and authorization to submit an application to IDOT for SRTS funds to enhance school crossings at two existing crosswalk locations for Hubbell Elementary School.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Amount: \$20,000 for the design and incidental costs. The total project cost is \$140,000, however, the construction costs of \$120,000 will be 100% federally funded.

Funding Source: 2009-2010 CIP, Page Traffic Control-5, City-wide Signals, Channelization, and School Crossing Protection Program, TFC091.

**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 IDOT administers this program, which will fund approximately \$1 million annually for Iowa. This year’s project applications must be submitted to the IDOT by October 1, 2009 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.

Staff recommends that the following project be submitted for this year, as follows:

Hubbell Elementary School Enhanced School Crossings at Center Street and at Chamberlain Drive

This project will improve two school crossing locations for Hubbell Elementary School. The project involves installing “speed tables” at (1) the existing crosswalk across Center Street at the 44<sup>th</sup> Street pedestrian bridge over I-235, and (2) the existing crosswalk across Chamberlain Drive approximately

200 feet west of 42<sup>nd</sup> Street. The estimated project cost is \$120,000, which would be requested from SRTS funds.

“Speed tables” are a type of traffic calming that have been used around the country to make crosswalk areas more visible for both the pedestrians and motorists. They consist of raising the street to the level of the sidewalk at the crosswalk location, necessitating that the driver slow down as they approach and go across the crosswalk.

The Center Street crosswalk enhancement would not only improve conditions for Hubbell Elementary School, but would also benefit Roosevelt High School along with users of the trail system that is being developed along the north side of I-235 between 56<sup>th</sup> Street and 40<sup>th</sup> Street.

This project concept has been reviewed and given support by both the Hubbell Elementary School administration and the representatives of the Roosevelt Cultural District improvement committee. At their September 15 meeting, the Traffic Safety Committee unanimously voted in support of submitting an application for funding of the project.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE**

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Date: September 15, 2009

Roll Call Number: N/A

Action: The Traffic Safety Committee approved staff’s recommendation that the Hubbell Elementary School Crosswalks at Center Street and Chamberlain Drive be submitted to the IDOT for consideration in their FY2011 funding program;

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

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

For more information on this and other agenda items, please call the City Clerk’s Office at 515-283-4209 or visit the Clerk’s Office on the second floor of City Hall, 400 Robert D. Ray Drive. Council agendas are available to the public at the City Clerk’s Office on Thursday afternoon preceding Monday’s Council meeting. Citizens can also request to receive meeting notices and agendas by email by calling the Clerk’s Office or sending their request via email to [cityclerk@dmgov.org](mailto:cityclerk@dmgov.org).