

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Council Communication</b> Office of the City Manager</p>	<b>Date:</b> September 27, 2010
	<b>Agenda Item No.</b> 6 <b>Roll Call No.</b> <u>10-1532</u> <b>Communication No.</b> <u>10-572</u> <b>Submitted by:</b> <b>Jeb E. Brewer, P.E.</b> <b>City Engineer</b>

**AGENDA HEADING:**

Authorize the City Manager to submit a “Safe Routes to School” (SRTS) FY2012 Fund Application to the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT).

**SYNOPSIS:**

The IDOT administers an annual SRTS program. City staff has developed a project that will upgrade the City’s existing School Flasher Control System. This system operates the “25 mph when flashing” speed limit signs at approximately 100 locations near schools. The estimated equipment/construction 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 IDOT for SRTS funds for this project.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Amount: The equipment and construction costs are eligible for 100% federal funding. Design and incidental costs are estimated to be \$20,000.

Funding Source: The equipment/construction costs would be 100% federally funded. Design and incidental costs would be paid from the CIP, “Citywide 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 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 IDOT by October 1, 2010 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:

School Flasher Control System Upgrading Project

This project will replace and upgrade the city's existing School Flasher Control System. The current system was installed over 20 years ago, and does not allow verification that the sign has been energized. The operating software has become obsolete and has no vendor technical support. The equipment parts are hard to repair or replace, and the system is difficult to program and maintain. The new system would provide for two-way communications with more reliability and flexibility in operation.

At their September 14, 2010 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 14, 2010

Roll Call Number: N/A

Action: A motion was made by Kevin Williamson to approve staff's recommendation that the School Flasher System Upgrading Project be submitted to the IDOT for consideration in their FY2012 funding program; seconded by John Morrissey. Motion passed 6:0.

**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).