



Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date:	February 14, 2011
Agenda Item No.	8
Roll Call No.	<u>11-0169</u>
Communication No.	<u>11-088</u>
Submitted by:	Jeb E. Brewer, P.E. City Engineer

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving and authorizing the execution of Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) Agreement for Hubbell Elementary School Enhanced School Crossings.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of IDOT Agreement No. 09-SRTS-012 for Federal Safe Routes to School Program Funds for Hubbell Elementary School Enhanced School Crossings. IDOT has approved this project for funding, up to a maximum of \$120,000.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$245,000

Funding Source: Various funding sources as follows:

- \$120,000 Federal Safe Routes to School Program Funds
- \$125,000 2010-11 CIP, Page Street-12, City-Wide Signals, Channelization, and School Crossing Protection Program, TFC091, G.O. Bonds

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

In September of 2009, City Council authorized the submittal of an SRTS application to IDOT for this project. The application was approved, and \$120,000 in funding is available for construction. The remaining construction costs and design, inspection, and construction administration, are to be funded by the City. The total City cost is estimated to be \$125,000.

The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) 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.

The proposed project will improve two existing school crossing locations for Hubbell Elementary School. The project involves installing “speed tables” at the existing crosswalk across Center Street at the 44th Street pedestrian bridge over I-235, and the existing crosswalk across Chamberlain Drive approximately 200 feet west of 42nd Street. 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 56th Street

and 40th Street. Construction is anticipated to occur in summer 2012.

“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 primary benefit of the proposed speed tables is the improved safety it will allow for active pedestrian and bicycle commuters to Hubbell Elementary, along with Roosevelt High School. While both schools currently have students who walk or ride bikes to school, this improvement will open the door to more children, especially at the elementary level, who have not previously been allowed to do so because of safety concerns – primarily that of the visibility of children in the crosswalk to motorists as well as the speed of passing motor vehicles. The speed tables will provide the added benefit of contributing to the safety of those motorists, a large number of which are Roosevelt students, through improved driving practices including pedestrian awareness and traffic calming.

Hubbell School is located within the “Roosevelt Cultural District,” which is centered on 42nd Street north of I-235. 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.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: September 28, 2009

Roll Call Number: 09-1764

Action: [City](#) Manager to submit a “Safe Routes to School” (SRTS) Fund Application to the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT). ([Council Communication No. 09-685](#)) Moved by Coleman to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Normal actions for award of the construction contract for the work.

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