

Agenda Report

TO: City Council **DATE:** April 24, 2000
FROM: City Manager
RE: Resolution Approving Safe Routes to School Grant Applications

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution approving the submission of a grant application for Safe Routes to School funds totaling \$407,000 to the State of California. The application includes three projects:

1. A pedestrian pick-up area for John Muir High School for \$200,000
2. Fluorescent green school area signs at several schools for \$ 25,000
3. Curb and sidewalk at Pasadena High School and at Wilson Junior High for \$182,000

BACKGROUND:

In 1999, the State Legislature enacted Assembly Bill 1475 to create a new safety demonstration program for school areas. The bill calls for Caltrans to establish and administer Safe Routes to School (SR2S) construction program and to use federal transportation funds for the construction of bicycle and pedestrian safety and traffic calming projects. The bill specifies that Caltrans make grant funds available to local governmental agencies under the program based on the results of a statewide competition that requires submission of proposals for funding and that ranks the proposals on the following factors:

- Demonstrated need
- Potential for reducing child injuries and fatalities
- Potential for encouraging increased walking and bicycling among students
- Identification of safety hazards
- Identification of current and future walking and bicycle routes to school
- Project support by city, school, and law enforcement agencies.

Caltrans plans to fund \$20 million of the SR2S projects each year for at least the next two years (until 2002). These funds will be used for projects throughout all of California. Two funding

cycles are planned for Year 2000, the first cycle is due on April 27, 2000, and the second will occur in September 2000. The maximum federal reimbursement per project is \$500,000. The typical federal reimbursement ratio for SR2S projects will be 90%. The funds can be used for a wide variety of projects but can only be used for construction, not planning or design.

The countywide Pedestrian Safety Task Force has discussed the types of projects that can be funded and that should receive funding priority in the county. The list of potential projects includes:

- ZEBRA or LADDER type crosswalks
- Lighted (Lightguard) crosswalks
- Safety lighting at midblock crosswalks
- School drop-off areas
- Reduced curb radii
- Stamped concrete for school crosswalks
- Dual wheelchair ramps for directional guidance
- Flashing beacons

The committee recommended three types of projects for the first round of funding by this program:

- Installation of fluorescent yellow green school warning signs
- Construction of sidewalks around schools
- Installation of Smart (lighted) crosswalks at locations approved by Caltrans

Staff discussed the proposed projects with Pasadena Unified School District staff to identify the location and type of projects that may be most beneficial. The District serves about 25,500 children in Pre-K to 12 at 43 school sites. The student population includes 3,000 in Special Education, 1,300 students in a Gifted and Talented program, and 850 students are in the Pre-K program. About 25 percent of the children are transported to school with school buses, and the remainder walk or arrive by personal vehicle. Almost none of the children bicycle to school.

Based on our discussions with the District, staff identified three projects for potential funding by the SR2S program. The Pasadena Unified School District has endorsed these projects and will provide a letter of concurrence. The following projects are proposed:

Passenger pick-up area at John Muir High School -- The Pasadena Unified School District has prepared master plans for all of the schools under its jurisdiction. The master plans identified the needs of each school and identified improvement programs to address the needs. One of the most pressing needs at John Muir High School is an off-street passenger pick-up and drop-off

area for students. The facility will be located on Lincoln Avenue just south of Wyoming Street. The total project will cost \$200,000 to construct.

The installation of fluorescent yellow green school area signs - These signs, recently approved by the California Traffic Control Devices Committee, have a bright, fluorescent background that makes them very visible to motorists. They are particularly useful at locations at student crossings that are not readily apparent or where illumination of the crossing is low.

The proposed project will replace existing school crossing signs with fluorescent yellow green signs at uncontrolled school crossings and midblock school crossings in the City. The project also proposes to replace existing school zone signs on major four lane arterials with high volumes and travel speeds. Staff has selected eight locations for sign installation with the grant application, and all locations will be included in one application. The estimated cost of the thirty school area sign installations is \$25,000.

The installation of sidewalks at two schools -- This project will install curb and sidewalk at Pasadena High School and Wilson Junior High School. The Pasadena High School project will involve the construction of sidewalks on the west side of Washington Boulevard between Sierra Madre Boulevard and the northern school property line and on the south side of Sierra Madre Boulevard. The total project length is 5,400 feet, and the projected cost is \$112,000.

The proposed construction at Wilson Junior High School is on the west side of Halstead Street between Del Mar Boulevard and Grayburn Street. This project will install sidewalk and curb & gutter to complete the sidewalk around the school boundary. The project will involve the construction of 4,750 linear feet of sidewalk, curb and gutter at a total cost of \$70,000. The total cost of the grant application for sidewalk construction is \$182,000.

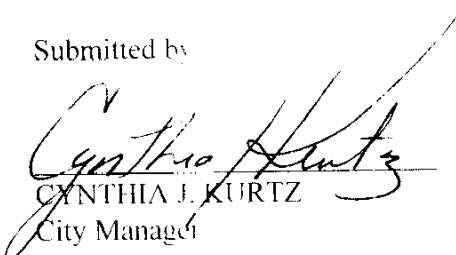
The list of projects for submittal to the State under this grant program was reviewed by the Transportation Advisory Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting of April 14, 2000. The TAC voted to support the staff recommendation for submittal of the two projects.

FISCAL IMPACT:

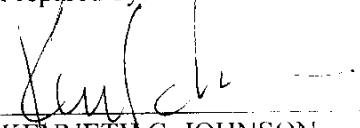
The projects under the proposed grant program are funded for 90% of the project cost. The city will be responsible for \$25,700 of the project cost. These funds are available from Capital Improvement Program funds programmed for FY 2000. The Lincoln Avenue Corridor

Improvement Project (73405) can contribute \$20,000, a total of \$2,500 can be allocated from the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (75210), and \$18,200 can be obtained from the pedestrian improvements included in the East Pasadena Specific Plan (75939).

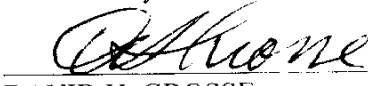
Submitted by


CYNTHIA J. KURTZ
City Manager

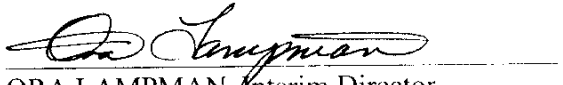
Prepared by:


KENNETH C. JOHNSON
Principal Engineer

Reviewed by:


DAVID H. GROSSE
Transportation Administrator

Approved by:


ORA LAMPMAN, Interim Director
Public Works and Transportation Department