

**Council Meeting: May 6, 2008****SUBJECT: Accept and Appropriate Safe Routes to School Grant Funds in the Amount of \$295,600 for Citywide School Route Improvement and Budget Modification No. 47****REPORT IN BRIEF**

The Department of Public Works (DPW), Transportation and Traffic Services Division requests the City Council accept and appropriate \$295,600 of Federal Safe Routes to School Grant funds allocated to the City for citywide school route improvement projects. The monies were granted to the City through the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and will be used to install radar speed feedback signs, pedestrian countdown signals, and in-roadway crosswalk lights at 46 locations throughout the City. The grant does not require a local match.

**BACKGROUND**

Safe Routes to School is an international movement that has taken hold in communities throughout the United States. The concept is to increase the number of children who walk or bicycle to school by funding projects that remove the barriers that currently prevent them from doing so. Those barriers include lack of infrastructure, unsafe infrastructure, lack of programs that promote walking and bicycling through education/encouragement programs aimed at children, parents, and the community.

The federal government and the State of California have prioritized Safe Routes to School programs as a means to address significant downward trends in the number of children walking and biking to school. Thirty years ago, 60 percent of children living within a two-mile radius of a school walked or bicycled to school. Today, that number has dropped to less than 15 percent. Approximately 25 percent commute by school bus, and well over half are driven to/from school in vehicles. In the 1970s, five percent of children between the ages of 6 and 11 were considered to be overweight or obese. Today, that number has climbed to 20 percent. These statistics point to a rise in preventable childhood diseases, worsening air quality and congestion around schools, and missed opportunities for children to grow into self-reliant, independent adults.

Local agencies must submit an application for candidate projects for this special program to Caltrans. Projects are screened for compliance with federal

and state eligibility criteria. Caltrans prioritizes the submitted projects and develops a list of recommended projects. This is the first cycle of federal funding and the seventh cycle for the state funding. Sunnyvale submitted applications previously but had not been awarded one of the grants in previous cycles.

### **EXISTING POLICY**

The following documents contain policy direction on this issue:

*Land Use and Transportation Element C3.* Attain a transportation system that is effective, safe, pleasant, and convenient.

*Fiscal Sub-Element 7.B.4c.* Utilize a uniform grants application process to assure that the City Council has the information necessary to make a decision regarding a potential intergovernmental grant. Staff should present to Council a notice of intent regarding a possible grant source which shall include at least the following information:

1. The grant being pursued and the use to which it would be placed.
2. The objectives or goals of the City which will be achieved through use of the grant.
3. The local match required, if any, plus the source of the local match.
4. The increased cost to be locally funded upon termination of the grant.
5. The ability of the City to administer the grant.

### **DISCUSSION**

Staff recommends City Council accept and appropriate the allocated grant funds in the amount of \$295,600 to a new capital project for FY 2007/2008. This grant will be administered from existing operating budgets in DPW. The project will result in a minor increase in signal maintenance costs subsequent to completion of the project and termination of the grant, as well as increased infrastructure replacement costs. Increased operating costs in the amount of \$1,080 per year will need to be budgeted in *Program 115 - Transportation and Traffic Services* upon project completion in FY 2009/2010. Infrastructure replacement costs will be accounted for in the next capital project budgeting cycle by adding replacement costs to *Project 825730 - Lighted Crosswalk Maintenance and Replacement*. Replacement costs are estimated at \$28,500 for three lighted crosswalks per year. The lighted crosswalks have an estimated life expectancy of 15 years.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

A total of \$295,600 in Safe Routes to School grant funding has been awarded to the City. This grant does not require local matching funds. Acceptance of Budget Modification No. 47 would allow the City to accept and appropriate \$295,600 in Safe Routes to School Grant monies to a new project. In addition, approval of this budget modification would approve \$1,080 in operating costs to begin in FY 2009/2010 and \$28,500 in replacement costs in *Project 825730 – Lighted Crosswalk Maintenance and Replacement* beginning in FY 2024/2025. The following table presents Budget Modification No. 47:

**BUDGET MODIFICATION NO. 47  
 FISCAL YEAR 2007/2008**

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease)</u>	<u>Revised</u>
<b>Capital Projects Fund/Traffic Mitigation Sub-fund</b>			
<u>Revenues:</u>			
Federal Safe Routes to School Grant	\$0	\$295,600	\$295,600
<u>Expenditures:</u>			
New Project — Safe Routes to School Citywide Projects	\$0	\$295,600	\$295,600

**PUBLIC CONTACT**

Public contact was made by posting the Council agenda on the City’s official-notice bulletin board outside City Hall, in the Council Chambers lobby, in the Office of the City Clerk, at the Library, Senior Center, Community Center, and Department of Public Safety; posting the agenda and report on the City’s Web site; and making the report available at the Library and the Office of the City Clerk.

**ALTERNATIVES**

1. Accept and appropriate Federal Safe Routes to School Grant funds in the amount of \$295,600 for citywide school route improvement projects and approve Budget Modification No. 47 to appropriate the grant to a new project.
2. Do not take action at this time and forfeit Federal Safe Routes to School Program Funds for citywide school route improvement projects.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends Alternative No. 1: Accept and appropriate Federal Safe Routes to School Grant funds in the amount of \$295,600 for citywide school route improvement projects and approve Budget Modification No. 47 to appropriate the grant to a new project. Accepting this grant revenue constitutes a positive fiscal impact, and construction of this project will benefit school pedestrian traffic safety.

Reviewed by:



Marvin A. Rose, Director, Department of Public Works

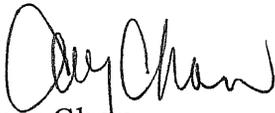
Prepared by: Jack Witthaus, Manager, Traffic and Transportation Division

Reviewed by:



Mary J. Bradley, Director of Finance

Approved by:



Amy Chan  
City Manager