



Council Meeting: September 16, 2008

SUBJECT: Council Approval to Apply for, Accept and Appropriate a Grant in the Amount of \$636,966 from the Federal Safe Routes to School Program in order to Design and Implement School Traffic Safety Devices Citywide and Approval of Budget Modification No. 7

REPORT IN BRIEF

The Department of Public Works is seeking Council approval to apply for, accept, and appropriate grant funds from the Federal Safe Routes to School Program. The grant monies are to provide funding in the amount \$636,966 for (1) Establishment of in-road lighted crosswalk systems at five school crossing locations; (2) Addition of pedestrian countdown signals at sixteen signalized intersections located along school routes; (3) Widening some sections of a sidewalk abutting to a school site where utility poles reduce the available width to less than the American Disabilities Act (ADA) requirement of four feet; (4) Reduction of corner radii and installation of ADA compliant curb ramps at some corners of ten intersections; (5) Construction of bulbouts at four intersection corners; and, (6) Enhancement of signing and pavement markings at numerous locations along school routes throughout Sunnyvale.

Due to grant deadline requirements, staff did not have an opportunity to request Council authorization for filing of the grant application prior to its deadline of July 18, 2008. This was due to the need to establish key grant details, information which was not available before the deadline. It should be noted that the project's improvements are mostly generated by the Pedestrian Safety and Opportunities Study, which was approved by City Council in December of 2007 (RTC 07-411). Other proposed improvements, in-pavement crosswalk warning lights and pedestrian countdown signals, are based on needs identified in two projects that had previously been listed as unfunded in the FY 2007/08 budget: (1) In-Pavement Crosswalk Warning Lights and (2) Countdown Pedestrian Signal Indicators. Some of the needs identified in the FY 2007/2008 unfunded projects have been partially funded from other sources. The City has established a funded project (827580) for in-pavement crosswalk warning lights, contingent on funding from grant revenue. Also, some pedestrian countdown signal installations have been incorporated into another grant-funded project established in FY 2007/2008 which is limited to school sites. The proposed Federal Safe Routes to School grant application covers additional needs not funded by previously received grants. The improvements are consistent with the City's FY 2007/08 Resource Allocation Plan, General Plan Land Use and Transportation Element, the 2006 Sunnyvale Bicycle Plan, and the 2007 Sunnyvale Community Vision Plan.

BACKGROUND

Building on the success of California's Safe Routes to School Program and similar programs in other states, Congress authorized a five-year federal funding program nationwide in order to: Enable and encourage children in kindergarten through eighth grade, including children with disabilities, to safely walk and bicycle to school; make walking and bicycling to school a more appealing mode choice; and, facilitate the planning, design and implementation of projects that will improve safety, environment and overall quality of life.

Section 1404 of Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), authorized the Federal Safe Routes to School Program in August 2005. Consistent with other federal-aid programs, each State Department of Transportation is held responsible for developing and implementing the program. Caltrans recently announced Cycle 2 of the Federal Safe Routes to School Grant Program which is dedicated to FY 2008-09 and FY 2009-10.

There are two types of applications available for Cycle 2, one for infrastructure projects (for projects such as sidewalks, pathways, bike lanes, signal upgrades, and traffic calming), and the second for non-infrastructure activities (such as public education, encouragement and enforcement). The Public Works Department's application is for an infrastructure project. If awarded and accepted, funds will be used in direct support of the Safe Routes to School Program goals and objectives.

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.

Law Enforcement Sub-Element Policy 4.1A.5, Facilitate the safe movement of pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicles.

Air Quality Element A.2.a: Develop and maintain a balanced transportation system in Sunnyvale by promoting pedestrian, bicycle and transit modes of travel.

DISCUSSION

The project's main objectives are to reduce vehicular traffic speeds in school areas, reduce collisions involving school age cyclists and pedestrians, improve student safety and sense of security along school routes, reduce crossing distances in which children are subjected to vehicular traffic and provide them

with accessible curb ramps at deficient locations. The project is expected to increase bicycling and walking to schools throughout Sunnyvale by creating a safer environment for children. The ongoing educational, encouragement and enforcement efforts by the City will help sustain effectiveness of the engineering measures identified in this Safe Routes to School project.

This project will retrofit sixteen signalized intersections with pedestrian countdown signals (locations are identified on the map included as Attachment A). These devices will help to educate pedestrians and bicyclists about safe crossing, and improve judgement of safe crossing times. The signals improvement will also encourage crossing at the intersections rather than at uncontrolled mid-block locations.

There are a number of uncontrolled crossing locations on school routes including three mid-block school crossings that have had a number of school related collisions, as well as many near misses reported by parents and school representatives. The five in-road lighted crossing systems are selected for these uncontrolled school crossing locations. Installation of the device has shown to increase the number of vehicles yielding to pedestrians and reduce speeds in the vicinity of crosswalks. The lighted crossing system provides a dynamic visual cue to drivers of the presence of pedestrians, especially during adverse weather conditions such as darkness, fog, and rain.

Widening some sections of the sidewalk abutting to Cupertino Middle School will provide safe and ADA compliant pedestrian access to students of the highest populated middle school in Sunnyvale. In addition, the project will reduce corner radii and install ADA compliant curb ramps at some corners of ten intersections. This will reduce motorists turning speeds and increase visibility of pedestrians at the corners, as well as provide convenient space and access for pedestrians crossing. The construction of bulbouts at four intersection corners will reduce the distance that students have to cross, reduce vehicular traffic speeds, and improve visibility at the intersections. Enhancement of the signing and pavement markings at key locations along school routes are planned to improve the overall safety and operational conditions.

Locations of the aforementioned improvements are listed in the following table along with the associated individual cost estimate.

List of Improvements and Associated Cost Estimates							
Item #	Item Description and Location	Unit	Quantity	Unit Price		Amount	
1.	IRWL System w/Flashing Beacons (attached aerials) - Mid-block crossing on Meadowlake between Lakehaven and Lakefair - Mid-block crossing on Hiddenlake between Lakehaven and Lakefair - Mid-block crossing on Fairwood between Sandia and Prescott - On Wright at The Dalles - On Remington at Espinosa	EA	5	\$24,000	00	\$120,000	00
	Installation of IRWL	EA	5	\$15,000	00	\$75,000	00
2.	Countdown Pedestrian Indications (per attached map and list)	EA	69	\$239	00	\$16,491	00
	Pedestrian Signal Housing	EA	30	\$250	00	\$7,500	00
	Installation of Pedestrian Indications	EA	69	\$75	00	\$5,175	00
	Installation of Pedestrian Signals	EA	30	\$100	00	\$3,000	00
	Striping	LS	1	\$15,000	00	\$15,000	00
3.	Widening some sections of the northerly sidewalk on Homestead Road abutting to Cupertino Middle School					\$25,000	
4.	Establishment of outer striping in EB direction on Maude between Sunnyvale and Bayview (for vehicles backing out of drop off/pick-up area)					\$1,800	00
5.	Reduce curb radii at all intersections on Washington between Acalanes and Leota					\$126,000	00
6.	Maude/Bayview - Install two bulbouts, reduce corners radii, and construct ADA compliant curb ramps.					\$67,000	00
7.	Maude/Sunnyvale - Reduce radii at NW corner to correct ADA accessibility issues and install ADA compliant curb ramps.					\$21,000	00
8.	Fremont/Sydney - Straighten bike lane, construct bulbout on SW corner, paint high visibility crosswalk on western intersection leg, provide ADA compliant curb ramps, and install City educational signs.					\$47,000	00
9.	Bernardo/Ayala - Install bulbouts, high visibility crosswalks across Bernardo, and tactile domes at curb ramps					\$34,000	00
10.	Reduce some curb radii at all intersections on Bernardo between Evelyn and Washington					\$28,000	00
				SUB-TOTAL		\$591,966.00	
Before & After Studies to Assess Project Effectiveness						\$45,000.00	
				TOTAL		\$636,966.00	

It should be noted that the project involves a series of before and after studies in order to assess the effectiveness of this Safe Routes to School Project. These tests will include vehicle speeds before and after installation of the devices, number of children walking and cycling, compliance rates of vehicles yielding to pedestrians and cyclists at crossing locations, and number of injuries related to walking and cycling to school.

The Department of Public Works received a notification encouraging agencies to apply for the Federal Safe Routes to School grant funding for infrastructure and/or non-infrastructure projects. Installation of the aforementioned traffic safety and operational devices is an eligible cost under the infrastructure grant program. The identified improvements are consistent with the City's Resource Allocation Plan, General Plan Land Use and Transportation Element, the 2006 Sunnyvale Bicycle Plan, and the 2007 Sunnyvale Community Vision Plan. The project's improvements are mostly generated by the Pedestrian Safety and Opportunities Study which was approved by City Council in November of 2007.

FISCAL IMPACT

If Council authorizes the Department of Public Works to apply for and accept the Federal Safe Routes to School funding, authorization is also needed to appropriate the monies accordingly. Budget Modification No. 7 has been prepared to accept \$636,966 in grant revenue and appropriate it to a new infrastructure project.

**BUDGET MODIFICATION # 7
 FISCAL YEAR 2008/2009**

Capital Projects Fund/General Sub-fund	<u>Current</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease)</u>	<u>Revised</u>
<u>Revenues:</u>			
Federal Safe Routes to School Grant – Cycle 2	\$0	\$636,966	\$636,966
<u>Expenditures:</u>			
School Related Safety and Operational Improvements Citywide – Infrastructure Project	\$0	\$636,966	\$636,966

Total cost for the design and implementation of the improvements is \$636,966. If awarded, the grant will cover 100% of the project's total cost with no local match needed.

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. Authorize staff to apply for Federal Safe Routes to School grant fund in the amount \$636,966 for: (1) Establishment of in-road lighted crosswalk systems at five school crossing locations; (2) Addition of pedestrian countdown signals at sixteen signalized intersections located along school routes; (3) Widening some sections of a sidewalk abutting to a school site where utility poles reduce the available width to less than the ADA requirement of four feet; (4) Reduction of corner radii and installation of ADA compliant curb ramps at some corners of ten intersections; (5) Construction of bulbouts at four intersection corners; and, (6) Enhancement of signing and pavement markings at numerous locations along school routes throughout Sunnyvale. If the grant is awarded, authorize acceptance of the grant and approve Budget Modification No. 7 to appropriate funds for the design and installation of the aforementioned devices.
2. Do not take action at this time and forfeit the opportunity to compete for Federal Safe Routes to School funds.
3. Other action as directed by Council.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Alternative 1. Authorize staff to apply for Federal Safe Routes to School grant fund in the amount \$636,966 for: (1) Establishment of in-road lighted crosswalk systems at five school crossing locations; (2) Addition of pedestrian countdown signals at sixteen signalized intersections located along school routes; (3) Widening some sections of a sidewalk abutting to a school site where utility poles reduce the available width to less than the ADA requirement of four feet; (4) Reduction of corner radii and installation of ADA compliant curb ramps at some corners of ten intersections; (5) Construction of bulbouts at four intersection corners; and, (6) Enhancement of signing and pavement markings at numerous locations along school routes throughout Sunnyvale. If awarded, authorize acceptance of the grant and approve Budget Modification No. 7 to appropriate funds for the design and installation of the aforementioned devices.

Submittal of this grant application is consistent with City policy to improve traffic safety and to pursue and use of intergovernmental funding for planned City projects.

Reviewed by:

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Prepared by: Heba El-Guendy, Senior Transportation Planner

Reviewed by:

Mary Bradley, Director, Finance

Approved by:

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City Manager

Attachments

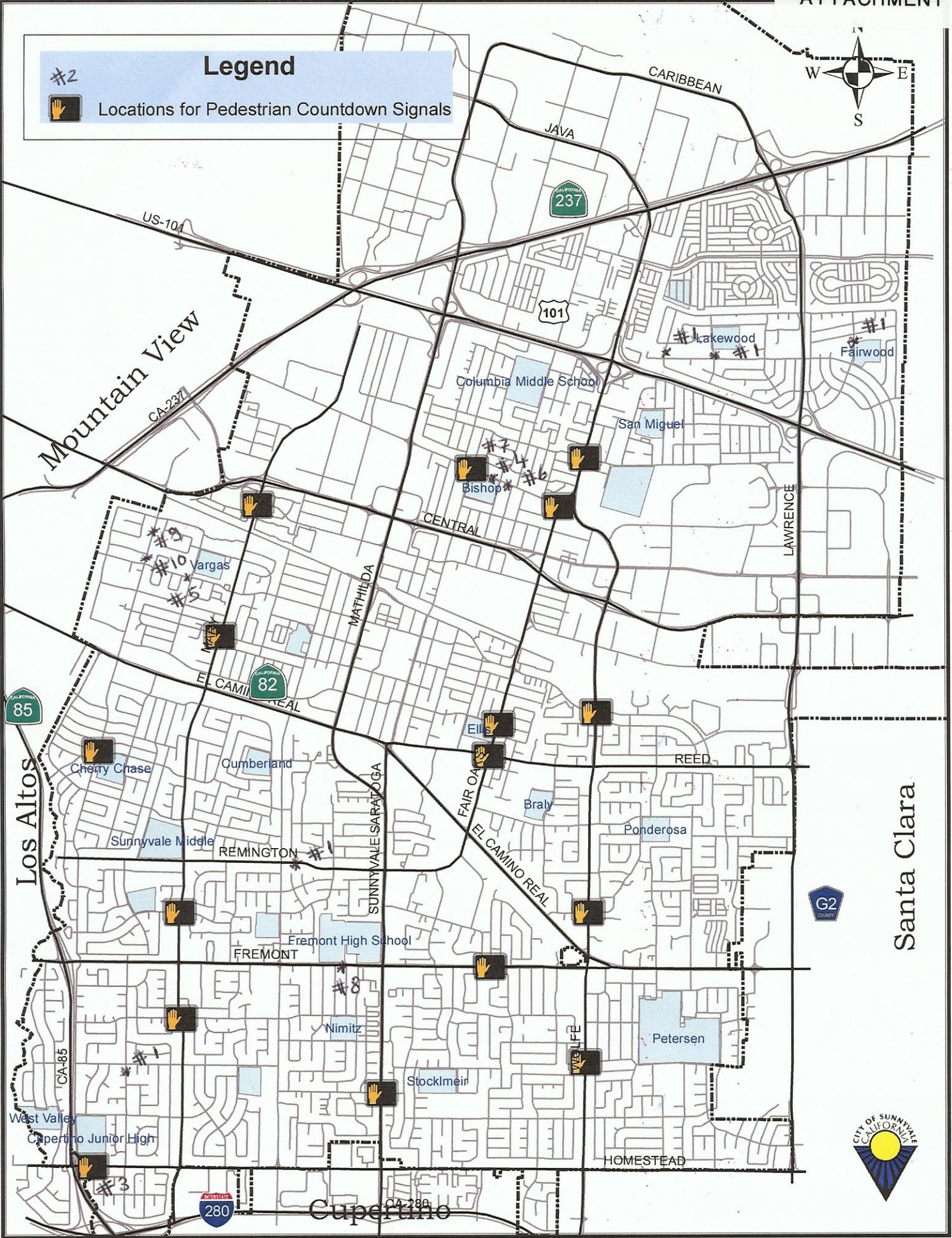
A. Map Illustrating Locations of Improvements



Legend

#2

Locations for Pedestrian Countdown Signals



Santa Clara



Cupertino