



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR

May 26, 2015

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From:  Christine Daniel, City Manager

Submitted by: Andrew Clough, Director, Public Works

Subject: Grant Applications: Active Transportation Program for Safe Routes to School

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt two Resolutions authorizing the City Manager to submit grant applications to the Caltrans Active Transportation Program for Safe Routes to School for traffic safety improvements at John Muir Elementary School for up to \$391,875; and at Oxford Elementary School and Jefferson Elementary School for up to \$327,750.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

If awarded, these Active Transportation Program (ATP) grants would bring in a total of about \$719,625 of competitive grant revenue to the Caltrans Safe Routes to School Fund (Fund 689) for Safe Routes to School (SR2S) traffic safety improvements around 3 Berkeley public schools.

The total estimated cost of the projects is \$757,500. The \$37,875 difference represents City matching funds, which will be available from the Measure B Bike/Ped Fund (Fund 392) beginning in FY 2016. While not required for ATP SR2S grants, matching funds improve the competitiveness of the application by leveraging local resources. If awarded, the grant funds must be fully expended within 3 years of the fiscal year award date, by the end of FY 2018.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Many public schools in Berkeley require crossing a major arterial street such as Ashby, University, or Shattuck Avenue. Students walking and biking to schools sometimes encounter undesirable traffic conditions, including arterial roadways with challenging crossings, a lack of accessible pedestrian facilities, and other traffic and personal safety challenges. These issues have been documented in the City's Pedestrian Master Plan and in walk audits conducted at Berkeley Public Schools through the Alameda County Safe Routes to School (SR2S) Program. The City currently lacks sufficient funding to address the traffic-related safety issues around many schools. As a consequence, fewer students walk and ride bikes to school than otherwise would.

## BACKGROUND

The Active Transportation Program (ATP) is a State program managed by Caltrans, which consolidates existing federal and state transportation programs, including the Transportation Alternatives Program, Bicycle Transportation Account, and State Safe Routes to School (SR2S), into a single program with a focus to make California a national leader in active transportation. The current ATP Cycle 2 program includes FY 2016/17, FY 2017/18, and FY 2018/19 funding years totaling \$360 million statewide.

Public Works Transportation has a long history of successful Safe Routes to Schools grant applications and project delivery. Recent funding awards include: \$681,000 in 2014 for pedestrian and bicycle crossing improvements along Shattuck Avenue near LeConte Elementary; \$596,000 in 2012 for improvements around Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School and Emerson Elementary School; and \$898,660 in 2009 for improvements around Malcolm X Elementary School, Rosa Parks Elementary School, Thousand Oaks Elementary School, and Berkeley Arts Magnet School.

Transportation staff has developed applications that address safety needs based on the school area improvement plans initiated by the Alameda County SR2S program, and developed by local parents, administrators and teachers. The applications include funding for improvements around John Muir, Oxford, and Jefferson Elementary Schools.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The Safe Routes to School projects in these grant applications are designed to improve school-area traffic safety, and thus increase the number of children walking and biking to school. Increasing cycling and walking is the number 2 goal under the Transportation and Land Use section of the Climate Action Plan. The Plan sets the goal of reducing transportation emissions 33% below 2000 levels by 2020 and 80% by 2050, and states that transportation modes such as public transit, walking, and cycling must become the primary means of fulfilling our mobility needs in order to meet these goals.

## RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

SR2S funding allows the City to address traffic safety issues around Berkeley public schools. The projects in these applications were reviewed and approved by the City's Traffic Engineering unit and thoroughly vetted with stakeholders such as the Alameda County SR2S program and Safe Routes Team Leader parents at each school. Not applying would mean foregoing at least \$719,625 in potential grant funding.

## ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

The City could choose not to apply for these funds, and these improvements in the areas surrounding schools would likely remain unfunded. Staff could have considered applying for funds for a different set of improvements based on projects from the Berkeley Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans, but feels the school area improvement plans initiated by the Alameda County SR2S program, and crafted by local parents and school administrators, would serve as the basis for the most effective and competitive application.

## CONTACT PERSON

Farid Javandel, Transportation Division Manager, Public Works, 981-7061  
Eric Anderson, Associate Transportation Planner, Public Works, 981-7062

Attachments:

- 1: Resolution – John Muir
- 2: Resolution – Oxford and Jefferson

RESOLUTION NO. -N.S.

GRANT APPLICATION: ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM/SAFE ROUTES TO  
SCHOOL FOR JOHN MUIR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

WHEREAS, students travelling to John Muir Elementary School experience conditions which discourage walking and biking to school; and

WHEREAS, the state Active Transportation Program funds can be used to make Safe Routes to School safety improvements to bicycle and pedestrian routes to schools; and

WHEREAS, pedestrian lighting, sidewalk bulbouts, crosswalk safety beacons, and signing, pavement striping, and legends are among the potential safety improvement measures proposed; and

WHEREAS, if awarded, the grant funds will be placed in the Caltrans Safe Routes to School Fund (Fund 689); and the City will provide matching funds in the amount of \$20,625, which amount will be available from the Measure B Bike/Ped Fund (Fund 392) beginning in FY 2016.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is authorized to submit a grant application to the California Active Transportation Program for Safe Routes to School traffic safety improvements around Berkeley public schools up to the amount of \$391,875; and accept the grants awarded, and execute any resultant agreements and amendments.

RESOLUTION NO. -N.S.

GRANT APPLICATION: ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM/SAFE ROUTES TO  
SCHOOL FOR OXFORD AND JEFFERSON SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, students travelling to Oxford and Jefferson Schools experience conditions which discourage walking and biking to school; and

WHEREAS, the state Active Transportation Program funds can be used to make Safe Routes to School safety improvements to bicycle and pedestrian routes to schools; and

WHEREAS, sidewalk bulbouts, crosswalk safety beacons, and signing, pavement striping, and legends are among the potential safety improvement measures proposed; and

WHEREAS, if awarded, the grant funds will be placed in the Caltrans Safe Routes to School Fund (Fund 689); and the City will provide matching funds in the amount of \$17,250, which amount will be available from the Measure B Bike/Ped Fund (Fund 392) beginning in FY 2016.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is authorized to submit a grant application to the California Active Transportation Program for Safe Routes to School traffic safety improvements around Oxford and Jefferson Schools up to the amount of \$327,750; and accept the grants awarded, and execute any resultant agreements and amendments.

