

**City of Minneapolis**  
**Request for Committee Action**

**To:** Transportation & Public Works  
**Date:** 12/1/2015  
**Referral:** Ways & Means  
**From:** Public Works Department  
**Prepared by:** Forrest Hardy – Assoc. Transportation Planner – PW, TPP  
**Presented by:** Forrest Hardy – Assoc. Transportation Planner – PW, TPP  
**File type:** Action  
**Subcategory:** Grant

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**Subject:**

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), Safe Routes to School Grant Application

**Description:**

Passage of Resolution supporting the submittal of federal grant applications for 2017 Federal Safe Route to School Funds through the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and authorizing the commitment of local funds per federal requirements to support approved projects.

**Previous Actions:**

None

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**Ward/Address:**

Ward 2  
Ward 6

**Background/Analysis:**

The City will prepare an application to MNDOT for Safe Routes to School dedicated federal infrastructure funds. These are federal funds designated to support the state Safe Routes Program as it transitions to the TAP under MAP-21. Selected projects within a 2-mile radius of a K-8 school are eligible for reimbursement of up to 80% of their construction costs. Approximately \$1.7 million will be awarded statewide. The minimum requested amount per project is \$100,000 and the maximum amount is \$300,000. A 20% local match is required for eligible construction costs. Design engineering and other additional project costs are not eligible for reimbursement. Selected projects are to be authorized for construction by June 30, 2017.

City Staff weighed eligible Safe Routes projects according to evaluation criteria from the funding solicitation. Emphasis was placed upon project readiness and level of previous community engagement. Effort was made to weigh potential projects from a broad geographical distribution throughout the city. Student density and allocation of previous Safe Routes to School funds were also factored into this distribution. Staff recommended the following project based on its high level of previous engagement, established Safe Routes programming, and potential to serve a large number of students, among other criteria:

Project Name	Location	Project Total (incl Des/Eng)	Requested Amount	Anticipated Local Match (Constr Only)	Total Local Cost
Seward Bicycle Boulevards	29 <sup>th</sup> Ave S & 24 <sup>th</sup> St E	500,000	300,000	75,000	200,000

Seward Bicycle Boulevards (29<sup>th</sup> Ave S & 24<sup>th</sup> St E)

Seward Montessori School has one of the most developed and highest participated bike to school programs in the City, despite the lack of designated bicycle facilities directly serving the school. Although it is designated a local street, 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue South receives a large proportion of non-local traffic as well as some heavy truck traffic. Twenty fourth Street East benefits from traffic diversion at Matthews Park. However, it has a busy crossing at 31<sup>st</sup> Ave S and a complicated intersection at Seabury Ave S / West River Parkway. This application includes 24<sup>th</sup> St E bicycle boulevard improvements east of Matthews Park. The City was previously awarded Hennepin County funds to install a portion of the 24<sup>th</sup> St E bicycle boulevard west of Matthews Park. That segment is anticipated to be installed in 2016 or 2017, independently of this application.

The 29th Ave S and 24th St E Bike Boulevards are included in the City's Bicycle Master Plan, though no infrastructure funds are currently programmed to complete these facilities. Seward Neighborhood has been actively engaged in planning level discussions surrounding these bike boulevards since October of 2012. In the spring of 2014 Seward Montessori received MNDOT Safe Routes planning funds to explore further investigation of the bicycle boulevards as well as general pedestrian improvements and Safe Routes programming efforts. Seward School also began a weekly remote school bus drop off or 'Bus Stop and Walk' in the spring of 2015, which uses a portion of 29th Ave S as its route.

The proposed project would install traffic calming elements to reduce vehicle volumes and speeds along 29th Ave S and 24th St E. Durable "Bike Blvd" street markings would also be installed to indicate to drivers that bicyclists are prioritized on these streets. Crossing enhancements might also serve a dual purpose of helping bicyclists and pedestrians cross busier collector streets in the neighborhood. Traffic diversion along 29<sup>th</sup> Ave S was also explored by Public Works staff by performing a test closure of this local street at the Midtown Greenway in the summer and fall of 2015. Feedback on the test has been largely positive. However, further investigation is needed before determining whether a permanent closure could and should be implemented. If a permanent closure is pursued, it could be implemented independently from, or implemented with the proposed 29<sup>th</sup> Ave S bicycle boulevard.

**Financial Review:**

**Additional appropriation required.**

\$200,000

**Attachments:**

1. Project Selection Criteria

**RESOLUTION  
OF THE  
CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS**

**By Reich and Quincy**

**Supporting the submittal of federal grant applications for 2017 Federal Safe Route to School Funds through the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and authorizing the commitment of local funds per federal requirements to support approved projects.**

Whereas the City of Minneapolis' goals support walking and bicycling as a vital transportation mode which provides active health benefits; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis includes policies and plans to ensure that walking and bicycling throughout the city is safe, comfortable and pleasant; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis desires to continue to improve its walking and bicycling infrastructure; and

Whereas, the Federal, State and County governments have been and continue to be strong partners in helping to accomplish our walking and bicycling systems that make Minneapolis a walking and bicycle-friendly city; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis has previously applied for and received federal grants for bicycling and walking projects;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That the City of Minneapolis hereby supports and authorizes Minneapolis Public Works Department to:

- a. Submit federal grant applications for 2017 federal Safe Route to School Funds through MNDOT which require matching funds, and
- b. Maintain these facilities for their useful life.