



## Request for City Council Committee Action From the Department of Public Works

**Date:** May 20, 2008  
**To:** Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee  
**Referral:** Honorable Paul Ostrow, Chair Ways & Means Committee  
**Subject:** **School Safety Program**

**Recommendation:**

- a. Receive and file School Safety Program update.
- b. Increase the appropriation for the PW-Transportation Capital Agency in the Permanent Improvement Fund (04100-9010000 – CTR815SG080) by \$13,000 for a total of \$213,000 and increase the revenue source (04100-9010000 – CTR815SG080) by \$13,000 to be reimbursed by Federal Aid Funds.
- c. Authorize the proper City Officials to execute agreements with the State of Minnesota.

**Previous Directives:**

December 12, 2007. C.A. Res. 2007R-645 Adopting 2008-2012 Five Year Capital Program, December 11, 2006. C.A. Res. 2006R-610 Adopting 2008-2012 Five Year Capital Program

**Prepared by:** JoNette Kuhnau, P.E., PTOE, Traffic and Parking Services 673-2158  
Steve Mosing, P.E., PTOE, Traffic and Parking Services 673-5746

**Approved by:**

---

Steven A. Kotke, P.E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

**Presenters:** JoNette Kuhnau, P.E., PTOE, Traffic and Parking Services  
Steve Mosing, P.E., PTOE, Traffic and Parking Services

**Reviews**

Permanent Review Committee (PRC):	NA
Civil Rights Affirmative Action Plan	NA
Policy Review Group (PRG):	NA

**Financial Impact** (Check those that apply)

- No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget (If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget
- Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase
- Action requires use of contingency or reserves
- Business Plan:  Action is within the plan.  Action requires a change to plan.
- Other financial impact (Explain):
- Request provided to department's Finance Dept. contact when provided to the Committee Coordinator

**Community Impact**

Neighborhood Notification: Not Applicable  
City Goals: A SAFE PLACE TO CALL HOME: the city's infrastructure will be well-maintained, people will feel safe in the city.  
Comprehensive Plan: Not Applicable  
Zoning Code: Not Applicable

**Background/Supporting Information**

The School Safety Program was developed and implemented in July 2005 to improve the safety environment at schools, recognizing that additional safety measures are needed to address the needs of school children while encouraging more walking and biking.

The federal Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) was passed in August 2005 and included Safe(r) Routes to School funding for each state. Safe(r) Routes to School is designed to improve the conditions and quality of bicycling and walking to school. The goal of the program is to reverse the 30 year decline in the numbers of children walking to school and reintroduce opportunities for regular physical activity. An estimated \$8 million dollars has been authorized for Minnesota's Safe(r) Routes to School program during the life of SAFETEA-LU.

**School Safety Program**

From the 2005-2006 school year to date in 2008, 65 elementary schools throughout the City have been reviewed and evaluated, with improvements made to the signing, striping, and signal timing to enhance the safety of walking and biking routes around the schools. The program also works with schools to recommend changes in pick-up/drop-off operations, locations of school patrols, and identify schools in need of bicycle racks. Approximately 20 more K-8 schools will be evaluated in the 2008-2009 school year, and reviews of safety at high schools will be conducted in the 2009-2010 school year.

Some infrastructure improvements identified through the school reviews required additional funding outside the existing budget to be implemented. As a result, Public Works has submitted a total of eight applications for Safe(r) Routes to School funding to Mn/DOT, as part of the competitive funding process. Minneapolis was awarded \$173,000 in Safe(r) Routes to School of FY 2005-2006 funding for the Collector/Arterial School Patrolled Crossing Improvement project, which includes installing pedestrian flasher systems at 6 intersections. Minneapolis Public Schools also received \$10,000 in Safe(r) Routes to School funding to do education and encouragement activities at the same schools where the infrastructure improvements are proposed. Minneapolis has also been awarded \$30,000 in FY 2007 Safe(r) Routes to School funding to install an overhead pedestrian crosswalk flasher system and bicycle racks at one

additional location, a continuation of the projects funded under the FY 2005-2006 Safe(r) Routes to School program.

In the FY 2008 round of applications for Safe(r) Routes to School, Mn/DOT received 105 applications of which 27 were selected for approximately \$2.0 million in funding. Public Works submitted four applications for sidewalk/trail connections, a pedestrian flasher system, and safe routes mapping, but was not successful in receiving funding for these projects. Public Works intends to again apply for Safe(r) Routes to School funding for FY 2009, which will occur in fall 2008 as the last funding round under the SAFETEA-LU legislation.

### **Safe(r) Routes to School**

The Collector/Arterial School Patrolled Crossing Improvement project includes the installation of overhead pedestrian-actuated flasher systems at school patrolled crossings, zebra crosswalks with durable pavement markings, pedestrian ramp reconstruction, and upgraded signing for enhanced visibility at the crossings. Two mobile dynamic speed feedback signs (speed wagons) will also be purchased and dedicated exclusively for use at schools throughout the City. Finally, Lake Harriet School has an extremely innovative bicycle skill and safety curriculum developed by one of its teachers that has resulted in as many as 120 students biking to school, so the project also includes the installation of new bike racks at the school to meet the demand for bike parking.

Thus, Public Works is requesting that the proper City Officials be directed to execute agreements with the State of Minnesota for installation of crosswalk and safety enhancements at the following locations:

- 54<sup>th</sup> Street E/13<sup>th</sup> Avenue S (Hale School)
- 42<sup>nd</sup> Street E/43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue S (Hiawatha School)
- 38<sup>th</sup> Street E/14<sup>th</sup> Avenue S (Bancroft School)
- 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue N/Bryant Avenue N (Nellie Stone Johnson School)
- Lyndale Avenue N/27<sup>th</sup> Avenue N (Nellie Stone Johnson School)
- Penn Avenue N/33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue N (Lucy Laney School)
- Upton Avenue S/49<sup>th</sup> Street W (Lake Harriet Community School- Upper Campus)

The estimated total cost (to date) for the seven overhead school crosswalk installations, speed wagons, bike racks and associated education and encouragement programming is \$213,000. Public Works has previously appropriated \$200,000 of federally reimbursable funds as part its capital improvement program. Of the total cost, 100% will be reimbursed by the Federal Highway Administration in cooperation with the State of Minnesota.

Attachments: Map

**By Council Members Colvin Roy and Ostrow**

“Passage of a resolution to amend the 2008 general appropriation resolution to increase appropriation for Public Works in the Capital Improvements Fund in the Transportation Capital Agency for expenses related to capital projects by \$13,000 funded from an increase to Federal Aid revenues in the amount of \$13,000 (04100-9010000 – CTR815SG080); amend the allocation of resources as follows: increase the revenue source (04100-9010000 – CTR815SG080) by \$13,000.”

## **T&PW**

Your Committee recommends that the proper City Officials be directed to execute agreements with the Commissioner of Transportation, State of Minnesota in the amount of \$213,000 for completion of infrastructure and non-infrastructure improvements at five schools.