



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

Date: June 20, 2006
To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee

Subject: School Pedestrian Safety Program

Recommendation: Receive and file

Previous Directives: None

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Approved by: _____
Steven A. Kotke, P.E., Acting City Engineer/Director of Public Works

Presenters: Jon Wertjes, P.E., PTOE, Director, Traffic and Parking Services

Permanent Review Committee (PRC) Approval _____ Not applicable X

Policy review Group (PRG) Approval _____ Not applicable X

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

 X 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

 X Business Plan: X 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: Maintain the physical infrastructure to ensure a healthy, vital and safe city

Comprehensive Plan: Not Applicable

Zoning Code: Not Applicable

Background/Supporting Information

The School Pedestrian Safety Program was developed and implemented in July 2005 to improve the safety environment at school, recognizing that additional safety measures are needed to address the needs of school children. The highest priority elementary schools were identified and scheduled to be reviewed within the first year of the program, at a rate of two schools per month. Evaluations have been completed, and recommendations have or are being implemented at the following 20 schools:

- Hale
- Our Lady of Peace
- Bancroft
- Richard R. Green Central Park
- Burroughs
- Annunciation
- Barton
- Ramsey International Fine Arts
- Carondelet Lower Campus
- Kenwood
- Bryn Mawr
- Hall
- Nellie Stone Johnson
- Jordan Park
- Cityview
- Lucy Laney at Cleveland Park
- Sheridan Global Arts
- Marcy Open
- Emerson Spanish Immersion
- Hiawatha/Howe

Recommended measures including signing, striping, and signal timing were then implemented to improve the safety around the schools. In addition, recommendations for some funding-dependent improvements were made, where applicable.

Safe Routes to School

The federal Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) was passed in August 2005 and included Safe Routes to School funding for each state. Safe 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 Routes to School program during the six year life of SAFETEA-LU.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) is currently soliciting applications for the Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Safe Routes to School funding, with a minimum of \$1.45 million awarded for infrastructure projects and \$250,000 for non-infrastructure projects. A maximum award of \$175,000 is available per school district for infrastructure improvements. Examples of infrastructure improvements include durable thermoplastic markings that are brighter and last longer than painted crosswalks, overhead signing of school crossings on high-volume

roadways, sidewalk/bike path connections to schools, and bike racks. The Safe Routes to School awards do not require any local matching funds; the projects are 100 percent reimbursable.

Public Works is working with our partners in the School Pedestrian Safety Program, including Minneapolis Public Schools and the Minneapolis Park Police, to submit an application for \$175,000 to fund the improvements already identified by the School Pedestrian Safety Program. The proposed projects will include durable zebra crosswalk markings at several uncontrolled school crossings that are located on either a collector or arterial roadway, and overhead school crossing signing, with flashers, at approximately 5 school crossing locations. The Safe Routes to School application will be submitted to the Mn/DOT in July 2006, and funding awards are expected in September 2006.