

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

Gunnar Hale, Project Manager
Dana Hornkohl, Capital Projects Manager

SUBJECT

First Reading of Ordinance No. 112, 2025, Appropriating Prior Year Reserves and Authorizing Transfers of Appropriations for the Safe Routes to School Zach Elementary School Project.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to provide a supplemental appropriation to the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Zach Elementary School Project (Project). Poudre School District (PSD) contributed \$25,000 to the Project and this contribution was incorrectly appropriated in Ordinance No. 144, 2023. If approved, this item will correct this error and correctly appropriate the \$25,000 PSD contribution to the Project. No new funding will be appropriated to the Project. As no new funding is being appropriated, there is no proposed additional contribution to the Art in Public Places (APP) program.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Ordinance on First Reading.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

Zach Elementary School is located on the south side of Kechter Road (**Attachment 2**), a high-traffic, high-volume arterial street in southeast Fort Collins. Zach Elementary students who live north of Kechter must cross the road to get to school. Many of the streets and roads in this area either lack sidewalks altogether or have substandard sidewalks, and there is a lack of multi-use trail connectivity in this southeastern area of the City. Zach Elementary has high numbers of students who bike, walk, or roll to school. Those students who live south of the school experience safer routes to school via low-traffic, low-volume residential streets with sidewalks. Other students who live north of the school must cross Kechter to get to school, making their journey much more challenging and riskier due to the existing suboptimal crossings at Kechter Road and Jupiter Drive and at Kechter Road and Cinquefoil Lane. Due to the Jupiter/Kechter intersection not being fully signalized, a traffic-control contractor is required to keep students safe when crossing Kechter (at both morning arrival time and afternoon dismissal time).

There have been four rear-end crashes reported in this location between 2017 and 2022, one of which occurred during school dismissal time and one that involved a pedestrian who suffered serious injuries. The improvements proposed as part of the Project will create space and infrastructure intended to eliminate most of the conflicts that result in crashes in this location. The improvements at the Jupiter/Kechter intersection include a new fully signalized intersection with pedestrian walk signals and a new bike-

pedestrian crossing. The improvements at the Cinquefoil/Kechter intersection include a median refuge island and flashing signal.

In 2023 a Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) SRTS grant was awarded to the City for the design and construction of the Project. The SRTS and local match funding was appropriated by City Council in November 2023 (Ordinance No. 144, 2023). A supplemental appropriation was approved by City Council in November 2024 (Ordinance No. 139, 2024) to fund additional concrete work and acquisition of temporary construction easements that were not originally identified as part of the Project. The design of the improvements is complete and temporary construction easements have been secured. Construction is planned to begin in July 2025 and to be completed before school begins in mid-August.

The initial appropriation of the PSD contribution (\$25,000) was incorrectly appropriated to the Project. This action will correctly appropriate the PSD contribution to the Project. No new funding is being appropriated with this action. There is no additional APP contribution needed with this action.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

The following is a summary of the funding anticipated for design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction for the Safe Routes to School Zach Elementary School Project.

Prior Appropriated Funds	
Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Grant	\$ 745,587
Transportation Services Fund Reserves	\$ 373,240
Transportation Capital Expansion Fee (TCEF) Reserves	\$ 176,760
Poudre School District (PSD) Contribution	\$ 25,000
Community Capital Improvement Program (CCIP) Bicycle	\$ 30,699
Community Capital Improvement Program (CCIP) Pedestrian Program	\$ 30,699
Total Prior Appropriation	\$ 1,381,984

Funds to be Appropriated or Transferred per this Action	
Poudre School District (PSD) Contribution (no new funding)	\$ 25,000
Community Capital Improvement Program (CCIP) Bicycle	\$ 30,699
Community Capital Improvement Program (CCIP) Pedestrian Program	\$ 30,699
Total Funds to be Appropriated or Transferred per this Action	\$ 86,397
Total Project Funds	\$ 1,381,984

The total fund amount projected for this Project is \$1,381,984 composed of funds appropriated with prior actions and with this action.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Project has received full environmental and historical clearances through CDOT during the design, acquisition, and construction phases. The two appropriations for the Project were authorized by City Council in November 2023 and November 2024.

The Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC), Bike Fort Collins (BFC), North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization (NFRMPO), Poudre School District (PSD), and Zach Elementary School have reviewed and are in support of the Project.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Project information was shown at the Transportation Projects Fairs in February 2024. Staff developed and implemented a comprehensive Public Engagement Plan for the Project and construction is scheduled. Additionally, per requirements of the CDOT grant agreement, the City's SRTS program will provide educational activities for Zach Elementary School students, staff, and parents. The activities will relate the proper use of the new infrastructure provided by the Project.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Ordinance No. 144, 2023 (for reference)
2. SRTS Zach Elementary School - Vicinity Map
3. Ordinance No. 112, 2025