

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

John Gerwel, Project Manager
Nancy Nichols, Safe Routes to School Program Manager
Dana Hornkohl, Capital Projects Manager

SUBJECT

Items Relating to the Irish Elementary School Safe Routes to School Project.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- A. Resolution 2026-009 Authorizing the Execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City of Fort Collins and the Colorado Department of Transportation for the Irish Elementary School Roadway Improvements.
- B. Resolution 2026-010 Authorizing the Execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City of Fort Collins and the Poudre School District for the Irish Elementary School Safe Routes to School Project.
- C. Resolution 2026-011 Authorizing the Execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City of Fort Collins and Larimer County for the Irish Elementary School Safe Routes to School Project.
- D. First Reading of Ordinance No. 008, 2026, Making Supplemental Appropriations of Grants and Authorizing Transfers of Appropriations for the Irish Elementary School Safe Routes to School Project and Related Art in Public Places.

The purpose of this item is to enable the City to receive and expend federal, Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), and local funds for the Irish Elementary School Safe Routes to School (SRTS) project (Project). The funds will be used to design and construct improvements along West Vine Drive and along Irish Drive to benefit Irish Elementary School students. These improvements will create safer conditions for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists traveling near the school. If approved, the item will: 1) authorize the City Manager to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for the Project with CDOT; 2) authorize the City Manager to execute an IGA for the Project with the Poudre School District; 3) authorize the City Manager to execute an IGA for the Project with Larimer County; 4) appropriate \$835,000 of CDOT Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grant funds for the Project; 5) appropriate \$28,333 of Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) grant funds for the Project; 6) appropriate \$75,000 of Poudre School District grant funds to the Project; 7) appropriate \$25,000 of Larimer County grant funds to the Project; 8) transfer matching funds from the Community Capital Improvement Program – Pedestrian Sidewalk (CCIP-PS); 9) transfer matching funds from the Community Capital Improvement Program – Bicycle Infrastructure Improvements (CCIP-BII); and 10) transfer \$1,000 (1% of the Poudre School District and Larimer County contributions) in capital project funds to the Art in Public Places (APP) program.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Resolutions and the Ordinance on First Reading.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

Irish Elementary School is located on the west side of Irish Drive, a local residential street in northwest Fort Collins. Irish Elementary students who live north of West Vine Drive must walk or ride their bikes along the shoulder of West Vine Drive, a two-lane arterial street, then cross this 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 area of the City. Irish 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 West Vine to get to school, making their journey much more challenging and riskier due to the existing suboptimal crossing at the West Vine Drive and Irish Drive intersection.

The improvements proposed as part of the Project will create space and infrastructure intended to minimize the time students, parents, and school staff spend on the street when commuting to this location. The improvements along West Vine Drive will include a separated multimodal sidewalk (sidepath) for pedestrians and cyclists. The improvements at the intersection of Vine and Irish will include a new Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) and median refuge island. The improvements along Irish Drive will enlarge the existing sidewalk into a sidepath between the RRFB and the school.

In 2025 a CDOT SRTS grant was awarded to the City to support the design and construction of the Project. The SRTS funding became available to the City in the State fiscal year 2026 (July 2025). SRTS funding involves a 80%/20% (Federal/Local) cost sharing. Also in 2025, a CDOT HSIP grant was awarded to the City for the design and construction of the RRFB included in the Project. HSIP funding involves an 88.9%/11.1% (Federal/Local) cost sharing.

Per Chapter 23 of the City Code, Article XII (addressing Art in Public Places), Section 23-304, all appropriations for construction projects estimated to a total cost of over \$250,000 shall include an amount equal to 1% of eligible funds for works of art. The proposed action includes a transfer of \$1,000 to the APP program, which is 1% of the Poudre School District and Larimer County contributions. The SRTS and HSIP grant funds are not eligible for an APP contribution. CCIP funds have already contributed 1% towards the APP program.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

The following is a summary of the funding anticipated for design and construction for the Irish Elementary School Safe Routes to School project. The total fund amount for the Project is \$1,419,617 composed of funds appropriated or transferred with this action.

Funds to be Appropriated or Transferred	
Safe Routes to School Grant (SRTS)	\$ 835,000
Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)	\$ 28,333
Poudre School District (PSD)	\$ 75,000
Larimer County (LC)	\$ 25,000
Community Capital Improvement Program - Pedestrian Sidewalk (CCIP-PS)	\$ 119,437
Community Capital Improvement Program - Bicycle Infrastructure Improvements (CCIP-BII)	\$ 337,847
Net Total Project Funds to be Appropriated or Transferred	\$ 1,420,617

Proposed Transfer to Art in Public Places (APP) Program	\$ 1,000
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Total Capital Project Funds	\$ 1,419,617
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BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The primary elements of the Project were identified as part of the Active Modes Plan adopted by City Council in December 2022. Staff will present the project to the Transportation Board in 2026.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

City staff presented the Project at the North College Corridor Open House held at the Northside Aztlan Community Center on October 9, 2025. Students in the North College corridor go to Irish Elementary School. The Project will also be presented at the 2027 Transportation Projects Fair. Staff will continue to work with the Communications and Public Involvement Office to meet the City's external communications goals.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Irish Elementary School Crossings Project Vicinity Map
2. Resolution 2026-009
3. Resolution 2026-010
4. Resolution 2026-011
5. Ordinance No. 008, 2026