



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council

STAFF

Gunnar Hale, Civil Engineer
Brad Buckman, City Engineer
Nancy Nichols, Safe Routes to School Program Manager
Heather Jarvis, Assistant City Attorney

SUBJECT

Second Reading of Ordinance No. 144, 2023, Appropriating Unanticipated Revenue From a CDOT Safe Routes to School Grant and Authorizing Transfers for the Zach Elementary School Crossings Project and Related Art in Public Places.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Ordinance, unanimously adopted on First Reading on October 17, 2023, enables the City to receive and expend federal, Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), and local funds for the Zach Elementary School Crossings Project (the Project). The funds will be used to design and construct improvements at the intersection of Kechter Road and Jupiter Drive and at the intersection of Kechter Road and Cinquefoil Lane. These improvements will create safer conditions for bicyclists, pedestrians, and motorists traveling in this location. If approved, the item will: 1) authorize the Mayor to execute an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) for the Project with CDOT; 2) appropriate \$745,587 of Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grant funds for the Project; 3) appropriate matching funds from the SRTS School Transportation Safety Studies; 4) appropriate matching funds from the Bicycle Community Capital Improvement Program (Bicycle CCIP); 5) appropriate matching funds from the Pedestrian Community Capital Improvement Program (Pedestrian CCIP); 6) acknowledge anticipated funds contributed by the Poudre School District (PSD); and 7) appropriate funds to the Art in Public Places Program.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Ordinance on Second Reading.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

Zach Elementary School is located on the south side of Kechter Road, a high-volume arterial street in southeast Fort Collins. Zach Elementary students who live north of the arterial must 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 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 for 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 CDOT SRTS grant was awarded to the City for the design and construction of the Project. The SRTS funding became available to the City in the State fiscal year 2024 (which began July 2023). SRTS funding involves an 80%/20% (Federal/Local) match. The funding split for this award is \$745,587 Federal and \$187,397 Local. The City’s local match is being covered by the SRTS School Transportation Safety Studies, Bicycle CCIP, Pedestrian CCIP, and funds that will be received pursuant to an IGA with the PSD.

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 one percent of eligible funds for works of art. The appropriation ordinance with this item includes a contribution of \$1,010 to the Art in Public Places Program, which is 1% of the local match from SRTS School Transportation Safety Studies funds of \$101,000. The Bicycle and Pedestrian CCIP 1% was previously appropriated through the 2023/24 Budgeting For Outcomes process. The SRTS grant funds and PSD Funds appropriated via this action are ineligible for use toward public art and, as such, are not subject to the 1% set aside.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

The following is a summary of the funding anticipated for design and construction for the Zach Elementary School Crossings Project:

Funds to be Appropriated with this Action	
CDOT SRTS Grant	\$745,587
SRTS School Transportation Safety Studies/Infra. Improvements	\$101,000
Bicycle CCIP	\$46,397
Pedestrian CCIP	\$40,000
Total Funds to be appropriated with this Action:	\$932,984
Transfer to Art in Public Places	(\$1,010)

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Staff will present this Project to the Transportation Board in 2024 as the plans are developed.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Staff will present Project details to the public and Zach Elementary community as the Project is developed. As the Project moves forward, a website will be available to the public and staff will develop a comprehensive communication plan. Additionally, per requirements of the CDOT grant agreement, the City's Safe Routes to School program will provide educational activities for Zach Elementary students, staff, and parents relating to how to properly use the new infrastructure provided by the Project.

ATTACHMENTS

First Reading attachments not included.

1. Ordinance for Consideration