



STAFF REPORT
Board Meeting of September 18, 2024

AGENDA ITEM: 4-B

PREPARED BY: Sandy Ebersole, Administrative Analyst

SUBJECT:

2024-25 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant awarded to Madera County

Enclosure: No

Action: Information and Discussion Only

SUMMARY:

Madera County has been awarded \$700,000 for the Madera Safe Routes to School Plan Development Project through the Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program.

Madera County (County) intends to work in partnership with Madera Unified School District (MUSD) and the City of Madera (City) to prepare a Safe Routes to School Plan (SRTS Plan) covering the MUSD service area within the city and surrounding communities in the County. Development of this SRTS Plan would be a multipronged effort under which MUSD, along with the County and City, would assess the location, conditions, and issues of existing pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicle facilities along road segments that provide important linkages between each MUSD school and residential areas – the routes used by students to get to and from school. The project would identify gaps in the motorized and non-motorized infrastructure and recommend design improvement options (e.g., sidewalk connectivity, pedestrian and road safety features, bicycle facilities, education programs, etc.) that would provide an opportunity to make walking and bicycling to MUSD schools safer and more accessible for children, including those with disabilities, and to increase the number of children who choose to walk and bicycle. On a long term basis, completion of the SRTS Plan and resulting construction projects to address the improvements recommended in the plan, would ease traffic congestion near various MUSD schools, improve air quality, enhance children’s health and well-being, and improve community members’ overall quality of life in the City of Madera and Madera County, while providing a blueprint for similar efforts in other cities and communities within the County and wider San Joaquin Valley region.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact to the approved 2024-25 Overall Work Program and Budget.