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MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CC: JOSHUA M. TETZLAFF, CITY ADMINISTRATOR
FROM: KYRA CHAPMAN, PLANNER
SUBJECT: RESOLUTION SUPPORTING MNDOT SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS) INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT APPLICATION
DATE: DECEMBER 6, 2024

In 2023, the New Prague Area School's referendum for an operating levy failed. As a result, bus routes were scaled back and student walking distances increased. This has especially impacted walking distances for those around Homefield Addition (English Ave NW) to Falcon Ridge Elementary School and from Westgate Townhomes to Raven Stream Elementary School.

To improve the walkability near surrounding schools, New Prague Area Schools (NPAS) intends to apply for the MnDOT Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Infrastructure grant application. SRTS grant will fund infrastructure construction costs that promote safe modes of non-motorized transportation to and from school. MnDOT is accepting grant requests that are between \$50,000 to \$1,000,000 with no match required. Funding will not cover costs associated with engineering, construction administration and inspection, right of way acquisition, water main, sanitary sewer, or private utility work. As a requirement of the grant, schools that apply for this grant must have a state aid city or county to sponsor the application. New Prague Area Schools is requesting the City of New Prague to act as a sponsor agency for the project.

The proposed project will consist of multiple infrastructure improvements that would benefit New Prague High School, Falcon Ridge and Raven Stream Elementary School. It's anticipated that the project would cost \$548,830 with construction beginning in 2026. Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) are proposed to be installed at existing posted crosswalks at Columbus Ave N/Heritage Trl NE, Columbus Ave N/12th St NE, and 11th Ave NW/2nd St NW. A completely new crosswalk with a RRFB would be installed at 12th St NE/English Ave NW. A trail would be added south of 12th St NW from English Ave NW to Columbus Ave N. Stairs would be installed behind the crosswalk of Columbus Ave N/Heritage Trl NE, and a woodchip trail would diverge from the new 12th St NW trail towards Compass Learning Center.

Staff Recommendation

Approve the attached resolution supporting the MnDOT Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Infrastructure Grant Application.



Proposed Improvement Near Raven Stream Elementary School