



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Title: Safe Routes to School Grant Application

Preferred Agenda: July 26, 2022

Submitted By: Blair Larsen, Community & Economic Development Director

Reviewed By: Christy Wurster, City Manager Pro Tem

Type of Action: Resolution ____ Motion X Roll Call ____ Other ____

Relevant Code/Policy: SH Charter, Chapter I, Powers of the City

Towards Council Goal: Aspiration I: Desirable Community; Aspiration III: Viable and Sustainable Infrastructure; Goal 1.3: Street Infrastructure

Attachments: Sweet Home 2022 Safe Routes to School Competitive Construction Grant Application
SRTS Application Signature Page
Engineering Drawings
Sweet Home SRTS Plan

Purpose of this RCA:

The purpose of this RCA is to seek Council approval for a grant application to the Oregon Department of Transportation Safe Routes to School Competitive Construction Grant program.

Background/Context:

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) has a competitive construction grant program that funds pedestrian improvements with the goal of improving safety for students walking and biking to school. For the past year, City staff have worked with the Sweet Home School District and community partners to develop a Safe Routes to School Plan and develop a project for this grant program.

The project focuses on Mountain View Road to the north and south of Sweet Home Junior High School and includes improvements to Mountain View Road from Ames Creek Road to Juniper Street, the intersections in between, and the intersection of Ames Creek Road and Grape Court/Loop. These areas were found to be the most in need of safety improvements for students who walk and bike to school.

The grant program has two tiers of support—one that requires a 40% local match, and one that requires only a 20% match. Under the rules of the program, this project qualifies for a local match of only 20%, making the program a significant financial benefit to the community.

Donna Short, a local grant writer, has worked with both the City and the School District on this project, and has done most of the “leg work” in putting this application together.

The Challenge/Problem:

Should the City submit an application to ODOT’s Safe Routes to School construction grant program for the Mountain View Road corridor?

Stakeholders:

- Sweet Home Students – Sweet Home Junior High School is the only Junior High for the entire School District, and all students there will benefit from safer pedestrian and biking facilities.
- Sweet Home City Council – The City Council has the authority authorize grant applications and City spending.
- Sweet Home Citizens – Citizens deserve a safe community for pedestrians and bicyclists. While the grant program focuses on school-age children, community members of all ages will benefit from these improvements.

Issues and Financial Impacts:

The total project cost is estimated to be \$2,182,800. The required 20% match from the City amounts to \$436,560. This project is expected to start in the next fiscal year. Staff recommend funding this project out of the PATH fund, and, to a smaller extent, Transportation and Stormwater System Development Charges. In the current budget, the PATH fund has \$634,480 reserved for future expenses, and these funds could be utilized in the next fiscal year for this project.

Elements of a Stable Solution:

A stable solution is one that leverages City funding with outside grant funding to construct improvements that improve the safety and quality of life for Sweet Home residents.

Options:

1. Do nothing – The City would not submit an application.
2. Authorize the City Manager to sign the application as presented.
3. Authorize the City Manager to sign the application with changes.
4. Direct Staff to research other options for funding pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends option 2, motion to authorize the City Manager to sign the application as presented.