



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Public Works

Date: January 6, 2015

To: Honorable Kevin Reich, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee

Referral to: Honorable John Quincy, Chair Ways & Means/Budget Committee

Subject: **City of Minneapolis Submission for MNDOT Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Funds**

Recommendation:

Authorize proper city officers to submit an application by January 9, 2015, for state funds through MNDOT's Safe Routes to School Program

Previous Directives:

February 8, 2013 – Safe Routes to School: Grant Solicitation

April 29, 2014 – Safe Routes to School Program Update

Department Information:

Prepared by: Forrest Hardy, Safe Routes for Youth & Seniors Planner

Approved by: _____
Steven A. Kotke, P.E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

Presenters in Committee: Forrest Hardy, Safe Routes for Youth & Seniors Planner

Reviews

- Permanent Review Committee (PRC): N/A
- Civil Rights Approval N/A
- Policy Review Group (PRG): N/A

Financial Impact

- No financial impact

Community Impact

- Living Well: Minneapolis is a safe and livable and has an active and connected way of life
- Great Places: Natural and built spaces work together and our environment is protected
- A City That Works: City government runs well and connects to the community it serves

Supporting Information

The 2015 MnDOT Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Funding Solicitation has an application deadline on January 9, 2015. There is \$1 million in state funds available through this solicitation. No local match is required. However, the funds are only eligible for construction costs. Preliminary engineering and construction engineering costs are not eligible for reimbursement with this funding source. Additionally, the solicitation specifies that construction must take place in 2015 or 2016.

Public Works staff explored many possible projects from throughout the city and consulted with Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) staff and the interagency Safe Routes Work Group during the project selection process. The recommended application involves pedestrian crossing improvements near Lyndale School.

In general, factors influencing the selection of this project included:

- Expected student usage
- Improvements that are located on the Walking Routes for Youth Map
- Strong programming efforts encouraging student walking/biking at the school
- Traffic crash data
- Automobile traffic volumes
- On-site observations and recommendations from the City's school safety reviews
- Socio-economic factors (eligible free & reduced lunch % of school population)
- Project feasibility

Lyndale ranked strongly according to these criteria when compared to other possible Safe Routes projects from throughout the City. In February 2013, the City submitted an application for federal dollars at Lyndale School along with three other Safe Routes applications. The Lyndale application was not awarded at that time though we did receive funding for one of the four projects, Anderson School. The other three schools were: Lucy Laney, Waite Park and Green Central. While many of the concerns at the other three schools have been addressed or are pending construction, the issues at Lyndale remain. This proposed application for Lyndale School will be largely similar to the one submitted in 2013, though the specific treatments have been updated slightly.

The requested funding information for this application is listed below:

Project Name	Program	Requested Amount	Minimum Local Match Required	Total
Lyndale School Crossing Enhancements	MNDOT Safe Routes to School, State Funds	\$252,000	\$0	\$252,000

Project Description

Lyndale School Crossing Enhancements (\$252,000)

This application proposes enhancements at three locations near Lyndale School. All of these crossings are used heavily by Lyndale students and the surrounding community. The improvements at Blaisdell Ave and 34th Street will serve students that attend extracurricular activities at the Blaisdell YMCA and those living further to the east. The improvements along Pleasant Ave S at 35th Streets and 36th Streets will serve students participating in Lyndale's daily Walking School Bus group. It will also serve the weekly Bus Stop and Walk event wherein the majority of Lyndale's 547 students are unloaded remotely and utilize these crossings.

Attachments

A: Proposed Project – Lyndale School Crossing Enhancements

B: Map