

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS**  
**AGENDA ITEM DEPARTMENT HEAD'S SUMMARY FORM**

**DEPARTMENT:**        **Engineering Traffic Division**

**AGENDA DATE:**     **December 22, 2009 Consent**

**CONTACT PERSON/PHONE:** **Rudy Pino P.E., (915) 541-4793, pinorm@elpasotexas.gov**

**DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: ALL**

**SUBJECT:**

That the City Council hereby authorizes the application made by the City to the Texas Department of Transportation for the 2009 Program Call for the proposed projects eligible to receive funding under the Safe Routes to School Program. Additionally, that the City Manager is authorized to sign any related documents or agreements necessary to undertake project development and implementation activities to accomplish funding requirements under this program contingent upon selection by the Texas Department of Transportation to receive said funds. **(ALL DISTRICTS)**

**BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:**

The Texas Department of Transportation commissioned proposals across the state for FY 2009 program call for the Safe Routes to School (SRTS). The City submitted applications for schools within the El Paso, Socorro, and Ysleta Independent School Districts. The program supports projects increasing safety and convenience for elementary and middle school children (K through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade) to bicycle and walk to and from school. This is 100% federally funded program with no match required. Applications compete statewide for funding for a service area of a two mile radius per school. All federal guidelines apply to the grant, and an agreement with TxDOT is necessary to draw down the funds. The City is the sponsoring entity and will coordinate with the school districts as necessary.

**PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:**

City Council approved the allocation of the \$900,000.00 received for the SRTS program on October 30, 2007. The City's grant policy allows the City Manager to apply for and receive grant funding. However; because the SRTS program is a reimbursable program under the State, City Council authorization is required to authorize use of bond funding earmarked for TxDOT match to upfront the cost. Quarterly invoicing to the State will permit reimbursement of the funds.

**AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

The state will monitor the funding expenditures on a per school basis, so individual sub-projects for each campus will be tied to a master account.

**BOARD / COMMISSION ACTION:**

N/A

\*\*\*\*\*REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION\*\*\*\*\*

**LEGAL:** (if required) \_\_\_\_\_ **FINANCE:** (if required) \_\_\_\_\_

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

**APPROVED FOR AGENDA:**

**CITY MANAGER:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the Safe Routes to School Program is a comprehensive program designed to improve the bicycle and pedestrian safety of school age children; encourage a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age; enable and encourage children to walk and bicycle to school and to facilitate projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools, and,

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Title 43, Transportation, of the Texas Administrative Code Section 25.00 through section 25.505 the Texas Transportation Commission (Commission) previously approved the allocation of funds for projects supporting the initiatives of the Safe Routes to School Program, and,

**WHEREAS**, the City of El Paso was previously selected by the Commission for receipt of available funding in the amount of \$900,000, on a reimbursable basis, and,

**WHEREAS**, on October 30, 2007 the City Council of the City of El Paso authorized the City Manager to use local TXDOT match funds to upfront expenditures made under the SRTS Program Grant to secure State reimbursement to fund the master infrastructure plan that prioritizes projects and activities that support increased safety and convenience for elementary and middle school children to bicycle and walk to and from school, for a two-mile service area from each of ninety approved school project areas, and,

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the approved expenditures the master infrastructure plan has been completed and the City of El Paso is pursuing all funding opportunities to execute the infrastructure priorities and projects identified by the plan, and,

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Title 43, Transportation, of the Texas Administrative Code Section 25.00 through section 25.505, the Texas Department of Transportation issued the 2009 Program Call for proposed projects eligible to receive funding under the Safe Routes to School Program to include those involving both infrastructure and non-infrastructure related activities, and,

**WHEREAS**, the City of El Paso has submitted the appropriate application and documentation to meet the required deadlines and maintain eligibility for prospective State funding supporting the continued implementation of the SRTS program for El Paso

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF EL PASO:**

**THAT** the City Council hereby authorizes the application made by the City to the Texas Department of Transportation for the 2009 Program Call for proposed projects eligible to receive funding under the Safe Routes to School Program. Additionally, that the City Manager is authorized to sign any related documents or agreements necessary to undertake project development and implementation activities to accomplish funding requirements under this program contingent upon selection by the Texas Department of Transportation to receive said funds.

**ADOPTED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2009.**

THE CITY OF EL PASO

\_\_\_\_\_  
John F. Cook  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richarda Duffy Momsen  
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Shoesmith  
Assistant City Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_  
R. Alan Shubert, P.E.,  
City Engineer

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AGENCY Texas Department of Transportation

ISSUE 08/28/2009

ACTION Miscellaneous

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## Safe Routes to School Program

In accordance with 43 TAC §§25.500 - 25.505, the Texas Department of Transportation issues this 2009 Program Call for the proposed projects of the department's **Safe Routes to School** Program. The **Safe Routes to School** Program is a comprehensive program designed to improve the bicycle and pedestrian safety of school age children; encourage a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age; enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school; and to facilitate projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools.

Projects eligible to receive funding under this program include those involving both infrastructure related and non-infrastructure related activities.

For Infrastructure projects, the department will accept applications from state agencies and political subdivisions as defined in 43 TAC §25.501.

Eligible types of infrastructure projects are defined in 43 TAC §25.502(b) as:

- (1) sidewalk improvements such as new sidewalks, widened sidewalks, sidewalk gap closures, sidewalk repairs, curb cuts for ramps, and the construction of curbs and gutters;
- (2) pedestrian/bicycle crossing improvements such as new or upgraded traffic signals, crosswalks, median refuges, pavement markings, traffic signs, pedestrian or bicycle over-crossings and under-crossings, flashing beacons, traffic signal phasing extensions, bicycle sensitive actuation devices, pedestrian activated signal upgrades, and sight distance improvements;
- (3) on-street bicycle facilities such as new or upgraded bicycle lanes, widened outside lanes or roadway shoulders, geometric improvements, turning lanes, channelization and roadway realignment, traffic signs, and pavement markings;
- (4) traffic diversion improvements including separation of pedestrians and bicycles from vehicular traffic adjacent to school facilities, and traffic diversion away from school zones or designated routes to a school;
- (5) off-street bicycle and pedestrian facilities including exclusive multi-use bicycle or pedestrian trails and pathways;
- (6) traffic calming measures for off-system roads such as roundabouts, traffic circles curb extensions at intersections that reduce curb-to-curb roadway travel widths, center islands, full and half-street closures, and other speed reduction techniques;
- (7) secure bicycle parking facilities; and
- (8) other projects that promote pedestrian and bicycle safety of children in and around school areas.

To nominate an infrastructure project, the eligible political subdivisions must file its application, in the form prescribed by the department, with the district engineer of the district office responsible for the area in which the proposed **Safe Routes to School** project will be constructed. The address and telephone number of each district office may be obtained through the following web site under "Local Information" or by contacting the Traffic Operations Division at (512) 416-3279.

[http://www.txdot.gov/local\\_information/](http://www.txdot.gov/local_information/)

Completed applications must be received by the department no later than 5:00 p.m., Monday, November 30, 2009.

For non-infrastructure projects, the department will accept applications from state agencies, political subdivisions, schools, school districts, non-profit organizations, and for-profit organizations, or any combination of these entities as defined in 43 TAC §25.501.

Eligible types of non-infrastructure projects are defined in 43 TAC §25.502(b) as:

- (1) public awareness campaigns and outreach efforts to the news media and community leaders;
- (2) traffic education and enforcement in the vicinity of schools;
- (3) providing student education on bicycle and pedestrian safety, health, and the environment; and
- (4) other projects that promote pedestrian and bicycle safety of children in and around school areas.

To nominate a non-infrastructure project, the eligible applicant must file its application, in the form prescribed by the department, to the Traffic Operations Division (TRF) at:

Texas Department of Transportation

Traffic Operations Division

125 East 11th St.

Austin, TX 78701-2483

Completed applications must be received by the department no later than 5:00 p.m., Monday, November 30, 2009.

Information regarding the program, program guide, and application forms are available from the department's district offices, by contacting the Traffic Operations Division at (512) 416-3279, by the web site:

<http://www.saferoutestx.org/>

[http://www.txdot.gov/safety/safe\\_routes/default.htm](http://www.txdot.gov/safety/safe_routes/default.htm)

or by e-mail at:

[trftepgm@dot.state.tx.us](mailto:trftepgm@dot.state.tx.us)

**TRD-200903605**

Joanne Wright

Deputy General Counsel

Texas Department of Transportation

Filed: August 17, 2009

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