

**Presentation to Governing Body
April 19, 2011**

AGENDA ITEM 7c

Department: Public Works

Author/Presenter: Calvin E. O'Dell, 703-335-0019

Subject: Resolution to authorize 2011 SAFE Routes to SCHOOL Travel Plan and funding application submission to VDOT

Issue: Approve a resolution authorizing staff to submit a SAFE Routes to SCHOOL Travel Plan and subsequent funding application for infrastructure improvements contained in the plan at an estimated cost of \$425,000.

Background:

- VDOT administers the federal SAFE Routes to SCHOOL Program in the state of Virginia. This program enables community leaders, schools and parents across the United States to improve safety and encourage more children, including children with disabilities, to safely walk and bicycle to school.
- VDOT requires the submission of a Travel Plan that outlines existing conditions, evaluates areas where improvements are needed, and offers solutions that would encourage the act of walking and biking to school. These solutions may include major infrastructure changes that can be funded by grant money available to the program. This is a two step process, where the submission of a Travel Plan is followed by a funding application.
- This project was brought to the attention of staff at the end of March, and both school and city staff members have been hard at work in order to submit an acceptable plan by the April 29th deadline. The major barrier to pedestrians highlighted in the plan is the lack of a sidewalk on Euclid Avenue, north of Manassas Dr.
- The sidewalk project which was in the CIP for FY2014 as a medium priority project, has now been relisted in the CIP as a high priority project for FY2012.

Discussion:

- A first draft of the Travel Plan has been created, missing pieces of the plan are being filled in every day, and staff believes that we will be able to submit a plan worthy of funding by the April 29th deadline.
- Staff has considered funding for the sidewalk project the primary hurdle to be overcome. Due to the acquisition of right of way as well as the required conversion from a ditch system to a curb and gutter system, estimated project costs are at \$425,000, which was considered prohibitive at this point and time. However, this program offers the potential for 100% funding, with no out of pocket commitment from the City.
- With the recent construction of City Center and its related improvements, as well as the upcoming Euclid Ave. Intersection Improvements Project planned to begin next year, this would be an excellent opportunity to fill in the blanks between the center of the City and the high school/middle school campus.
- Making our plan and application stand out can be difficult, but by showing that our suggested improvements fill in the blanks as mentioned above, showing that the City has related commitments

like the Euclid intersection project, and showing that we have cleared major hurdles associated with infrastructure projects (i.e. Governing Body support) we can move ourselves ahead of the competition. That is why we would like to have a resolution of support signed before the submission of the plan. We would like to show VDOT that all we are waiting for is funding.

Recommendation:

Approve the resolution allowing staff to submit the 2011 SAFE Routes to SCHOOL Travel Plan and subsequent funding application for the amount of \$425,000 to the Virginia Department of Transportation.

Alternatives:

- (a) Wait until the plan is completed and submitted before approving the funding application. **This is a viable option, but not staff's recommendation.**
- (b) Do nothing. **This is not recommended by staff.**

Review:

City Business License: _____	Date: 4/13/11 _____
Prepared by: Calvin E. O'Dell _____	Date: _____
Reviewed by: _____	Date: _____
Approved by City Attorney: _____	Date: _____
Approved by City Manager: _____	Date: _____

RESOLUTION _____
CITY OF MANASSAS PARK, VIRGINIA
April 19, 2011

AGENDA ITEM

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN (THE "PLAN") AND FUNDING APPLICATION FOR THE INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (THE "PROJECT") OUTLINED IN THE TRAVEL PLAN TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (VDOT).

WHEREAS, the City has estimated the cost of the infrastructure improvements outlined in the Travel Plan at \$425,000; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) may have Safe Routes to School ("SRTS") program funds available for the 2011 SRTS funding cycle, which funds provide up to 100% funding for selected funding recipients; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to submit an application for 2011 Safe Routes to School program funds for the Project of up to \$425,000 for the Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Body of the City of Manassas Park, Virginia, meeting in regular session this 19th day of April, 2011, does hereby authorize submission of a Safe Routes to School Travel Plan and funding application to the Virginia Department of Transportation for \$425,000 of SRTS funds for the infrastructure improvements outlined in the Plan.

Approved April 19, 2011

Francis C. Jones, Mayor

Lana A. Conner, City Clerk