



## **CITY OF SALINAS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT**

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**DATE:** OCTOBER 22, 2019

**DEPARTMENT:** PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

**FROM:** DAVID JACOBS, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

**TITLE:** AGREEMENT WITH TAMC FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A  
SALINAS SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PLAN

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

A motion to approve a Resolution:

- 1) authorizing an agreement with the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) for the use of State Transportation Planning Program grant funds for the development of a Salinas Safe Routes to School Plan; and
- 2) allocating TAMC Safe Routes to School Program grant funds (\$72,116) towards a new CIP for the Salinas Safe Routes to School Plan.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends executing the agreement as a Salinas Safe Routes to School plan aims to benefit Salinas residents with recommendations for safe travel to schools.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County secured a State Planning grant to develop a Safe Routes to School Plan for the City of Salinas. Part of the grant will pay for City staff participation in conducting school audits, participation in school site meetings, developing programs and infrastructure recommendations to support safe travels to schools, reviewing the Safe Routes to School Plan for consistency with City objectives and assist TAMC staff in securing City approval for the Safe Routes to School Plan.

**BACKGROUND:**

City staff has been working with TAMC to develop a regional program for Safe Routes to School. With voter approval of Measure X, TAMC has allocated Measure X funds toward improving safety for all who travel to schools. Measure X funds in the amount of \$168,978 was leveraged to secure a \$954,502 Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant focused on Salinas routes to schools.

Under the grant, TAMC will partner with the Monterey County Health Department, Ecology Action, and City staff to develop the Salinas Safe Routes to School Plan (“Salinas SRTS Plan”). All partners were written into the scope of work and budget of the grant and are all eligible sub-applicants according to the adopted Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Guidelines. Therefore, a competitive bidding process was not required. The grant was awarded in May 2019. TAMC expects to receive Caltrans' authorization to proceed with work on the grant in October.

The nearly three-year planning process described in the Salinas SRTS Plan will identify barriers to safe access to all K-12 public schools in Salinas and recommend infrastructure and non-infrastructure improvements. The attached Agreements clarify the roles and responsibilities of each agency as well as reimbursement amounts for activities taken to deliver the Plan. The Transportation Agency is the Lead Agency, responsible for administering the grant, requesting reimbursement from Caltrans, developing an online project page and forum for public input, participating in outreach and overseeing project delivery in compliance with state, federal and local requirements.

The City of Salinas will be a partner Agency responsible for participating in community engagement activities, evaluating Plan recommendations and reviewing and facilitating adoption of the Plan. The City will be reimbursed up to \$72,116 as compensation for staff activities associated with the Salinas SRTS Plan.

Ecology Action will be the Implementing Agency responsible for managing the planning process, facilitating partner meetings and community engagement, collecting and analyzing data, developing draft and final planning documents and submitting invoices to the Transportation Agency.

The Monterey County Health Department will be a Partnering Agency responsible for assisting the Implementing Agency in community engagement especially with Spanish-speakers and health-disadvantaged populations. The project is expected to kick-off in October 2019 and conclude in April 2022.

Staff therefore recommends authorizing the execution of the agreement with TAMC. In addition, staff recommends the allocation of TAMC funds (\$72,116) under this agreement to a new CIP so that staff may begin reimbursable work with TAMC on the Salinas SRTS plan as soon as possible.

#### CEQA CONSIDERATION:

**Not a Project.** The City of Salinas has determined that the proposed action is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (CEQA Guidelines Section 15378). In addition, CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 includes the general rule that CEQA applies only to activities which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. Because the proposed action and this matter have no potential to cause any effect on the environment, or because it falls within a category of activities excluded as projects pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378,

this matter is not a project. Because the matter does not cause a direct or foreseeable indirect physical change on or in the environment, this matter is not a project. Any subsequent discretionary projects resulting from this action will be assessed for CEQA applicability.

#### STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE:

Developing a Safe Routes to School Plan supports the Council Goals of a Well Planned and Excellent Infrastructure; and a Safe Livable Community. Furthermore, a safe route to school plan is very consistent with General Plan policies within the Circulation Element for the creation of walkable communities, improving safety in bicycle travel and supporting safe routes to school.

#### DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION:

Developing the Safe Routes to School Plan will involve departmental coordination between staff from Public Works, Police and Community Development to ensure the Salinas SRTS plan is consistent with current City plans and traffic safety enforcement objectives.

#### FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

There is no impact to the General Fund. Funding from the TAMC program (funded by a State Grant and matched by Measure X funds) provide for staff participation for key City tasks within the grant. The grant provides grant funding to develop a master plan that addresses community concerns with safe travels to schools. A new CIP will be established in the amount of \$72,116 to fund this project. The City will be able to prioritize infrastructure and programmatic recommendations that may be funded by State infrastructure grants in the future.

#### ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution  
TAMC/City Agreement for the Salinas SRTS Plan  
Scope of Work