



CITY OF SALINAS
TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT

DATE: **SEPTEMBER 9, 2021**

DEPARTMENT: **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

FROM: **ANDREW EASTERLING, TRAFFIC ENGINEER**

TITLE: **SALINAS SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PLAN POP-UP DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

No recommendation is provided. This report is presented as information only as an update on the Salinas Safe Routes to School Plan. No action is required.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive an update on the Salinas Safe Routes to School Plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

At its October 22, 2019 meeting the City Council authorized an agreement (Attachment 1) with the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) for the use of State grant funds for the development of a Salinas Safe Routes to School Plan. The Traffic and Transportation Commission received an update at the December 12, 2019 and March 12, 2020 meetings. The project team is preparing to install a temporary pop-up demonstration project for Sherwood Elementary School, on East Alisal Street between US 101 and Hebron Avenue.

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 were leveraged to secure a \$954,502 Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant focused on Salinas routes to schools.

Under the grant, TAMC partners with the Monterey County Health Department, Ecology Action, and City staff to develop the Salinas Safe Routes to School Plan. The nearly three-year planning process described in the Salinas SRTS Plan grant will identify barriers to safe access to all K-12 public schools in Salinas and recommend infrastructure and non-infrastructure improvements (see attached scope of work).

The team has had a kick-off meeting with Caltrans and has been in coordination since the Fall of 2019. The project team has conducted outreach for the 44 schools in and around Salinas. Meetings and school safety audits have been conducted to help identify safety concerns as well as barriers to choosing active transportation to and from schools. The team will be compiling all of their recommendations into a draft plan which will be presented to the Commission in 2022 for consideration to recommend to City Council for approval.

As part of the project, the team plans to facilitate two to four pop-up demonstration events. The pop-up event will temporarily install, some of the infrastructure recommendations from the Safe Routes to School Plan. These events are an opportunity for the community to try out recommended changes and provide feedback, before the City takes steps to install more permanent infrastructure. Feedback from the community will help refine the recommendations in the Safe Routes to School Plan, before taking the Plan to City Council for adoption.

The first pop-up demonstration event will be held for Sherwood Elementary School, on East Alisal Street between US 101 and Hebron Avenue. The design of the project is based on the Alisal Vibrancy Plan, which was developed with extensive community input starting in 2017. The proposed pop-up event plans to reduce the number of travel lanes on East Alisal Street from four to two and install buffered bike lanes and crosswalk enhancements (Attachment 2). The pop-up will be in place between October 18th and November 17th.

The Commission is being notified in advance of the proposed temporary changes and is encouraged to visit the demonstration event once installed and provide feedback.

CEQA CONSIDERATION:

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).

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE:

The development of the Safe Routes to School Plan supports Council's goals of "Investment Strategies/Risk Management" by developing planned investments in effective and safe infrastructure.

DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION:

Public Works staff is working with regional partners including Monterey County Health Department, Salinas School Districts and TAMC. The Community Development Department and Public Works Department have worked closely together on the pop-up demonstration project and the implementation of the Alisal Vibrancy Plan.

FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

The development of the Safe Routes to School Plan is funded by State grant funds and TAMC Measure X funds. It is also anticipated that projects developed through a Caltrans endorsed plan may compete better for State funds during implementation.

The pop-up demonstration event will require staff time to install, maintain, and remove. Sufficient funds are available in the CIP 9196.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Resolution 21724

Attachment 2: Pop-up Demonstration Plan