



CITY OF SALINAS

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

STAFF REPORT

DATE: MARCH 12, 2020

DEPARTMENT: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

FROM: JAMES SERRANO, TRANSPORTATION MANAGER

TITLE: SALINAS SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PLAN – SPRING 2020 UPDATE

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 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 meeting.

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 (“Salinas SRTS 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 current task is planning the outreach strategy for the 44 Salinas elementary schools. A Request for Proposal has also been approved in search for a consultant that will help evaluate

infrastructure concepts and develop cost estimates that result from the Plan. Initial meetings with the Santa Rita and Salinas City Elementary school districts are already planned, which will be followed by safety audits with parents, school officials and other stakeholders at school locations to help identify safety concerns as well as barriers to choosing active transportation to and from schools.

Two school site meetings are currently scheduled, and the planning team would like to extend an invitation to City Council. The time, date and location of these meeting are listed below:

Salinas City Elementary School District

March 18, 2020 6:30 PM

Location: Los Padres Elementary School

Santa Rita Elementary School District

April 7, 2020 6:30 PM

Santa Rita Elementary School

2014 South Santa Rita Street, Salinas

In addition, walking audits are being scheduled at schools within the two districts. Commissioners are welcome to attend any of these audits. At these audits, members of the partnering agencies join stakeholders from the school community in a walk around the surrounding area of each school identifying challenges to safe travel to schools. This will be followed by a discussion.

Staff will continue to provide updates to the Commission in this 2-year project. The draft plan will be presented to Commission in 2022 for consideration to recommend to City Council for approval.

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 Councils goals of Investment Strategies/Risk Management by developing planned investments in effective and safe infrastructure.

DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION:

Public Works staff will be working with regional partners including Monterey County Health Department, School Districts and TAMC. Public works will be encouraging staff from other departments to participate in the development of the Safe Routes to School Plan and will be consulted on infrastructure and program recommendations that arise from the conversation with Salinas' school communities.

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.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Safe Routes to School Scope of Work

Attachment 2: School District Meeting Flyers

Attachment 3: Scheduled Walking Audits at schools