



**DATE:** September 28, 2021

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Director of Public Works

**SUBJECT:** Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to (1) Accept Funding from the Alameda County Transportation Commission in the Amount of \$162,000, and (2) Appropriate a Total of \$324,000 from the Measure BB Local Transportation (Fund 212) Fund Balance for Project 05319: Safe Routes to School Program for Cesar Chavez Middle School

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Council adopts a resolution (Attachment II) authorizing the City Manager to accept funding from the Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC) in the amount of \$162,000 and appropriate a total of \$324,000 from the Measure BB Local Transportation (Fund 212) fund for the Safe Routes to School (SR2S) Program for Cesar Chavez Middle School (CCMS).

## **SUMMARY**

Staff was successful in obtaining the SR2S Mini-Grant to fund improvements for the CCMS Project, which includes installation of paint and post curb extensions, advanced stop marketing, yellow high-visibility crosswalk, median extension, no U-turn signage, rectangular rapid flashing beacon (RRFB), advance yield marking, and paint red curbs. The grant sponsor, ACTC, awarded the City \$162,000 toward construction costs. Combined with the City's 50% local match, the project's total cost of \$324,000 will be appropriated from the City's Measure BB - Local Transportation Fund (Fund 212). The City's match of \$162,000 will be for the engineering design and staff and construction costs. The grant application was approved by the City's internal Grant Committee on March 17, 2021.

## **BACKGROUND**

SR2S is a comprehensive and proven approach to increase safe walking and biking to travel to school with the goals of reducing congestion and harmful pollutants around schools and increasing the safety and physical activity of students. Since 2006, ACTC has prioritized safe walking and biking to schools through its Alameda County SR2S Program. The Alameda County SR2S team conducted a School Safety Assessment (SSA) at CCMS on

February 1, 2018. The Alameda County SR2S team included staff from the City, ACTC, Hayward Unified School District, CCMS, and parents.

On February 11, 2021, ACTC announced funding to all cities and unincorporated areas in Alameda County for the SR2S Mini-Grant Program. The Program supports safe access and mobility to and from school, providing immediate safety benefits. It funds infrastructure improvements that have been recommended through the SR2S' SSA process and aims to support capital improvements that will enhance safety for active and sustainable transportation users including the pedestrians, cyclists and transit riders traveling to and from school throughout the County. The Program's goals are to:

- Create, support, and enhance safe access and mobility to schools;
- Implement safety countermeasures identified in a SSA conducted by ACTC;
- Encourage students to bike and walk to school; and
- Support capital improvements that are implementation-ready to provide immediate benefits to bicycle, pedestrian, and transit travel to schools.

The Program consists of \$1.7 million in Measure B local transportation sales tax program funds and Congestion Management Agency Transportation Improvement Program funds. The funds are distributed based on student population. ACTC awarded the City \$162,000 in July 2021 for CCMS to improve safety for cyclists, pedestrians, and/or other forms of active transportation to school.

## **DISCUSSION**

CCMS is located near the South Hayward BART Station off Whitman Street near Tennyson Road. The southeast side of the school borders the Union Pacific Niles Subdivision, an active railroad track that serves both Amtrak's Capital Corridor and freight trains. Both pedestrian and vehicle access to the school is located solely on Whitman Street. A 6-foot-tall chain-link fence separates the school from Tennyson Road and the railroad corridor. Walking is one of the simplest, most effective, and affordable strategies for kids and adults to build physical activity into their lives. CCMS has a high proportion of students walking to and from school. This project aims to make it safer for students to walk and bike to school and encourage more walking and biking where safety is not a barrier.

Recommendations to improve pedestrian safety and infrastructure surrounding CCMS include installation of the following:

- Yellow high-visibility crosswalk at Leidig Court/Tennyson Road intersection, Tennyson Road/Whitman Street intersection, and North Drop-off area.
- An advanced stop marketing for southbound departure at Leidig Court/Tennyson Road intersection.
- Paint and post curb extensions located at Leidig Court/Tennyson Road intersection, Tennyson Road/Whitman Street intersection, and North Drop-off area.
- Median extension at Tennyson Road/Whitman Street intersection.
- A no U-turn Signage and Assembly at Beatron Way.
- A rectangular rapid flashing beacon (RRFB) for the Whitman Street crossing.

- An advance yield marking at the Drop-off area & Whitman Street/Beale Drive.
- Paint red curbs for 20 feet at intersection approaches and 10 feet for the departure where there is a marked or unmarked crosswalk at all intersections near the school.

## **ECONOMIC IMPACT**

Active transportation options like bicycling and walking foster economic health by creating dynamic, connected communities with a high quality of life. Providing alternate modes of travel reduces single lane occupancy vehicles and reduces congestion and costs related to automobile-oriented infrastructure maintenance and construction. The overall transportation system will be more efficient; thus, reducing travel time. Moreover, the City will become a more pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly community, thus creating positive economic and health benefits and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

This project has a total budget of \$324,000. 50% of the project's costs (\$162,000) will be reimbursed through grant funding. The remaining amount will be appropriated from the City's Measure BB – Local Transportation (Fund 212) fund balance. Internal staff costs, engineering design, and administration cost are included in the 50% City share; these costs are included in the City's adopted FY 2022 Operating Budget.

## **STRATEGIC ROADMAP**

This item supports Council's strategic priority of Improve Infrastructure. Specifically, this item relates to the implementation of the following project(s):

Project 8, Part 8c. Implement the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan; Assess Safe Routes to School

Project 8, Part 8d. Implement the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan; Implement Safe Routes to School

## **SUSTAINABILITY FEATURES**

The action taken for this agenda report will result in supporting mobility goals established as part of the City's 2040 General Plan, providing for a balanced multi-modal system of transportation facilities and services in the City.

The plan will be a comprehensive effort that will guide, prioritize, and implement a network of quality bicycle and pedestrian facilities to improve mobility, connectivity, public health, physical activity, and recreational opportunities. By applying best practices, the plan will increase transportation options, reduce environmental impacts of the transportation system, and enhance the overall quality of life for residents. The goal of the project is to develop convenient transportation alternatives to motor vehicles for residents,

visitors, shoppers, and commuters. The resulting reduction in single occupancy vehicles will reduce vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gases.

**PUBLIC CONTACT**

The Alameda County SR2S team conducted a school safety assessment at CCMS during the afternoon dismissal time on February 1, 2018. City staff, ACTC, Hayward Unified School District, CCMS staff, and parents attended the assessment. The purpose of the meeting was to identify and evaluate the safety issues around the school with the help of the school community. As part of the process, SR2S staff and the school community identified problematic issues at CCMS. City staff intends to also have a public survey in February to allow for additional community input. An improvement plan will be finalized after receiving feedback from the school district and community input.

**NEXT STEPS**

If Council approves this request, the City Manager will accept and appropriate the grant funding. Subsequent steps will include selection of the design consultant, preparation of construction documents, construction bidding, and construction of improvements. The process is expected to begin in January 2022 and be completed by July 31, 2023.

*Prepared by:* Dr. Ayeh Khajouei, Associate Transportation Planner  
Kathy Garcia, Deputy Director of Public Works

*Recommended by:* Alex Ameri, Director of Public Works

Approved by:



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Kelly McAdoo, City Manager