



**CITY OF SANTA CRUZ
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS
COMMISSION
AGENDA REPORT**

DATE: February 26, 2014

AGENDA OF: March 17, 2014
DEPARTMENT: Public Works
SUBJECT: Safe Routes to School – Westlake Neighborhood Pedestrian Safety Project
(c401211) (PW)

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation and Public Works Commission recommend that the City Council approve the State Safe Routes to School – Westlake Neighborhood Pedestrian Safety Project, and authorize staff to advertise for bids.

BACKGROUND: The goal of Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is to increase the number of children who walk or bicycle to school by funding projects that remove the barriers that currently prevent them from doing so. Those barriers include lack of facilities such as sidewalks or bike lanes, unsafe facilities, and/or lack of programs that promote walking and bicycling through education and encouragement programs aimed at children, parents, and the community.

In July 2011, the City of Santa Cruz applied for a Federal Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Cycle 3 Program Award and on October 18, 2011, was awarded \$503,100 for the Westlake Neighborhood Pedestrian Safety Project, of which \$35,800 is pass-through funding for a Ecology Action non-infrastructure component. And on December 11, 2011, council motion carried to authorize and direct the City Manager to accept the SRTS Cycle 3 Program Award.

Ahead of the infrastructure portion, the Westlake Neighborhood Pedestrian Safety Project has provided education and encouragement programs to support children walking to school in the Westlake neighborhood. In Fall 2012, Ecology Action introduced and began piloting the Walking School Bus (WSB) program at Westlake Elementary. Three walking “bus” routes were created with 48 students currently using the program. Per the grant, this non-infrastructure is funded through Spring 2014.

DISCUSSION: This project, proposed for construction this summer, will improve pedestrian routes in the Westlake Neighborhood and to Westlake Elementary School. Improvements include construction of ADA compliant sidewalk, driveway approaches, curb ramps, and pedestrian crossing enhancements across Meder St at Bay Ave with median islands, and a speed table/crosswalk across Moore St at Bradley Dr (see summary and location diagrams attached)

There are fourteen properties directly adjacent to improvements. For six of the properties, Temporary Construction Easements (TCE) are essential and to date staff has obtained all six. Of the remaining eight TCEs, staff has acquired five to date, and staff continues to reach out to property owners for their agreement. Lacking the non-essential TCEs will require minor modification to plans and specs to assure

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construction stays within the public right-of-way and does not touch these properties, which is completely feasible.

In December 2012, the City began outreach to all affected property owners with a letter informing them of the award and scope of the grant along with an anticipated timeline for construction in summer of 2014. In addition, it asked that the property owner to contact project staff so that they could share the concept plans and answer any questions that they might have. In December 2013, a second letter was sent with the same content along with notification that the topographic and utility survey was completed and that the design would begin that month. On February 27, 2014 notices were sent of this item on the TPW Commission agenda. (All notices attached)

Project staff continues to work with affected property owners on details of the construction plans and specifications, with anticipated completion and Council approval in April 2014.

FISCAL IMPACT: The project is fully funded in the FY13-14 budget with a cost estimate of \$434,000.

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Attachments:

[Location Map](#)

[Concept Plans](#)

[Notices](#)