



## CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

### Committee of the Whole Agenda Communication

**Meeting Date:** August 9, 2021

**Prepared By:** Jon Oliphant, AICP, Planning & Development Director

**Agenda Item:** Safe Routes to School Project Application Consideration

**Explanation:** IDOT recently announced a call for projects for its Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program. IDOT is accepting applications between August 16 and September 30 with an announcement of awards typically expected the following spring. This year's program provides an 80% reimbursement for eligible infrastructure projects with a required 20% local match. The maximum award is \$250,000. Engineering and right-of-way acquisition is not eligible for SRTS funding. Approximately \$12 million will be available statewide, which is about double as compared to the prior cycle, and this has historically been a very competitive program.

We previously received funding for the construction of a six-foot wide sidewalk connecting Route 8 with Beverly Manor School in 2012. Two separate awards were also received in 2019 to construct sidewalks connecting to Central Intermediate School, an 8' wide shared use path on N. Main Street, and a sidewalk on North Street. The sidewalk on North was subsequently removed from the planned construction after issues arose with the existing culvert.

While SRTS criteria allow for consideration of any project within a two-mile radius of a K-8 school, it appears that more funding priority is given to those within closer proximity to an eligible school. Staff has identified a few possible sidewalk locations to consider should there be interest in an application submittal:

- North St. (N. Main to West St.)
- Washington Estates (Eagle, Elgin, and/or Grandyle)
- Jackson St. (Washington Park to Lincoln Ave.)

**Fiscal Impact:** Funds are not currently budgeted for the required 20% match or engineering. Given that the awards would likely not be announced until next spring and a grant agreement would be approved thereafter, funds could be set aside as part of the FY 22-23 budget process should there be direction to apply. Each of the projects referenced above would cost less than \$250,000, necessitating a match of \$50,000 or less. Engineering would be anticipated to be about 20% of the estimated construction cost. Therefore, the City's expected cost for engineering and construction would not exceed \$100,000 and could likely be less depending on the location and scope of the project.

**Action Requested:** Direction at the August 9 Committee of the Whole meeting on a possible SRTS project application at any of the locations identified above or others not on that list. If the consensus is to apply, the Council will need to approve a resolution committing to the 20% local match prior to the submittal deadline.