



CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

City Council Agenda Communication

Meeting Date: September 20, 2021

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

Agenda Item: Resolutions – Safe Routes to School Projects Local Match Commitments

Explanation: IDOT is accepting applications through September 30 for its Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program 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. After discussion at the August 9 Committee of the Whole meeting, direction was given to submit applications within each of the three school districts for the construction of 5' sidewalks at the following locations:

- District 50: Grant Street
- District 51: Eagle Avenue from BR 24 to just south of Central Intermediate School
- District 52: North Street from N. Main Street to just west of West Street

Fiscal Impact: The District 50 project is proposed to contain two phases due to the full construction cost of about \$535,000, much of which is due to the need to construct storm sewer and inlets. This proposed application, which would be for the western half of sidewalk starting from School Street, carries an estimate of \$316,125 with the City being responsible for \$66,125 of the cost. There is not a solid logical terminus if it does not connect with Route 8. The District 51 project is estimated at \$181,420, with the City's share being \$36,284. The District 52 project is estimated at \$159,100, with the City's match at \$31,820. Should the City receive grants for all three projects, the City's construction commitment would be \$134,229 of the total estimated project cost of \$656,645. Staff plans to include adequate funds for each of these projects (including engineering) as part of the FY 22-23 budget process in case grants are awarded for all of the construction.

Action Requested: Staff recommends Council approval of each of the three resolutions committing to the 20% local construction match that are required as part of the applications.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

(Synopsis: Approval of this resolution would support a Safe Routes to School grant request to construct new sidewalk on Eagle Avenue near Central Schools.)

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AN ILLINOIS SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL
PROGRAM GRANT REQUEST IN SCHOOL DISTRICT 51**

WHEREAS, the City of Washington proposes to apply for assistance from the Illinois Safe Routes to School Program for the purpose of constructing a sidewalk on Eagle Avenue from US Business Route 24 to near Central Intermediate School; and

WHEREAS, the City of Washington has the funds available to pay the required 20% local match, which is estimated at \$36,284; and

WHEREAS, the City of Washington has the financial capability to operate, maintain, and manage the completed project in a safe and attractive manner for the public's use; and

WHEREAS, the City of Washington desires to provide a safe transportation system for pedestrian and bicycling traffic; and

WHEREAS, the health and safety of the students in School District 51 is of the highest concern; and

WHEREAS, the City of Washington, in coordination with the Washington Police Department and the staff of Central District 51, plans to educate the District 51 students and enforce the observance of all traffic laws nearby; and

WHEREAS, all of the necessary right-of-way has been acquired to construct the sidewalk on Eagle Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the City of Washington has determined that the pursuit of an Illinois Safe Routes to School Program grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation will help meet these objectives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, TAZEWELL COUNTY, ILLINOIS, as follows:

That the City supports the grant request to construct approximately 800 lineal feet of sidewalk on Eagle Avenue.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS _____ day of _____, 2021.

AYES _____

NAYS _____

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk