



## CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

### Committee of the Whole Agenda Communication

**Meeting Date:** August 14, 2023

**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 11 and October 2 with an announcement of awards typically expected the following spring. This year's program provides a full 100% reimbursement for eligible infrastructure projects. Past SRTS cycles required a 20% local match. The maximum award is \$250,000. Engineering and right-of-way acquisition is not eligible for SRTS funding. Approximately \$6 million will be available statewide, which is about half the amount compared to the prior cycle. Scoring preference is given to those schools with higher percentages of low-income students and students with disabilities. With the deletion of the local match requirement and reduced funding, this figures to be an extremely competitive program.

The City was selected for funding in 2022 for two projects:

- District 50: \$250,000 to construct a 5' wide, approximately 850' long sidewalk along right-of-way on Grant Street from School Street to the east. This would be the first phase of a two-phase project to eventually connect the sidewalk to Illinois Route 8. Phase 1 engineering is ongoing. Construction is planned in either 2024 or 2025.
- District 52: \$127,280 to construct a 5' wide, approximately 450' long sidewalk along right-of-way on North Street between N. Main Street to just west of West Street. Phase 1 engineering is ongoing. Construction is planned in either 2024 or 2025.

While SRTS criteria allow for consideration of any project within a two-mile radius of a K-12 school, more funding priority is given to those within closer proximity to an eligible school. Besides the two projects that were selected for funding in 2022, an application was submitted to construct a sidewalk within District 51 on Eagle Avenue from Business Route 24 to just south of Central Intermediate School. This project would appear to be a solid choice for another submittal as would the Phase 2 construction on Grant Street.

**Fiscal Impact:** Funds are not currently budgeted for engineering or any construction cost overage beyond the \$250,000 grant cap. 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 24-25 budget process should there be direction to apply. The remaining construction on Grant Street is estimated at \$300,000 and the City would be responsible for any construction cost not covered by the grant maximum. The Eagle Avenue construction project is estimated at \$200,000. Engineering would be anticipated to be about 20% of the estimated construction cost. Therefore, the City's expected cost for engineering and construction would be about \$110,000 for Grant and about \$40,000 for Eagle.

**Action Requested:** Direction at the August 14 Committee of the Whole meeting on a possible SRTS project application at the locations identified above or others not on that list. If the consensus is to apply, the Council will need to approve a resolution of financial commitment prior to the submittal deadline.