



## CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

### City Council Agenda Communication

**Meeting Date:** September 18, 2023

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

**Agenda Item:** Resolutions – Safe Routes to School Projects Support

**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.

Discussion at the August 14 Committee of the Whole meeting gave staff direction to submit an application for a District 50 Phase 2 sidewalk construction project on Grant Street from its western terminus to IL Route 8. There was interest in a District 51 sidewalk construction project on Elgin Avenue between Bobolink Drive and Grandyle Drive. Additional interest was stated for sidewalk to be constructed on Grandyle to connect with the Washington Recreation Trail further north.

**Fiscal Impact:** The District 50 project is estimated at about \$248,000. While within the \$250,000 grant maximum, it would be reasonable to anticipate that there could be a slight local match for any actual cost in excess of that amount. The District 51 Elgin project is estimated at about \$205,000. Staff recommends not including the sidewalk construction on Grandyle for two reasons: 1) The Grandyle portion is estimated at about \$220,000. If included in the SRTS request, the City would be responsible for about \$175,000 of the total estimated cost. Storm sewer upgrades are tentatively planned in 2024 on Grandyle as part of the bonding for various stormwater projects around the city. Pending feedback from the adjacent property owners, sidewalks could be added to that project at a much lower cost than through the SRTS submittal because the engineering for that portion of the project would not have to go through IDOT's review and land acquisition; and 2) Assuming the Grandyle storm sewer project proceeds in 2024, it would be best for any sidewalk construction to be done concurrently while yards are already disrupted instead of doing that again in 2025 or 2026 after they were restored from the storm sewer construction.

Staff plans to include adequate funds for the engineering as part of the FY 24-25 budget process in case grants are awarded for both of the construction projects. Should either project be awarded, funds would be budgeted in FY 25-26 for the possibility of a local match beyond the \$250,000 grant maximum.

**Action Requested:** Staff recommends Council approval of each of the resolutions supporting the two SRTS applications.

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

(Synopsis: Approval of this resolution would support a Safe Routes to School grant request to construct new sidewalk on Elgin 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 sidewalks on Elgin Avenue from Bobolink Drive to Grandyle Drive near Central Intermediate and Primary Schools; and

**WHEREAS**, while no local match is required, the City of Washington has the funds available to pay any cost exceeding \$250,000; 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 sidewalks on Elgin 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 515 lineal feet of sidewalk on Elgin Avenue.

**PASSED AND APPROVED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.**

**AYES** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAYS** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk