

W.S.B.2.

Memorandum Date: June 1, 2010

Meeting Date: June 16, 2010

TO: Board of County Commissioners

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

PRESENTED BY: Mark Bernard, Transportation Planning

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: ORDER/IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING THE BETHEL SCHOOL DISTRICT'S REQUEST FOR A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR A SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL NON-INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT APPLICATION.

I. MOTION

Move approval of the Order providing a letter of support to the Bethel School District for a Safe Routes to School Non-infrastructure grant application.

II. DISCUSSION

A. Background / Analysis

The Bethel School District is seeking a letter of support for a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Non-infrastructure grant application to fund education, traffic enforcement and community involvement initiatives that increase bicycling and walking among school children. The goals of the program are to increase the ability and opportunity for children to walk and bicycle to school, encourage a healthy and active lifestyle at an early age, and facilitate the planning, development and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption and air pollution within two miles of a school.

Two groups of funding are available through the SRTS program:

- Non-infrastructure activities: education and encouragement, and traffic enforcement activities within two miles of the school
- Infrastructure projects (engineering) within two miles of the school (funding not available at this time)

Education and enforcement activities are eligible under the SRTS Non-infrastructure grant program. Education activities include teaching pedestrian, bicyclist and traffic safety, and creating awareness of the benefits and goals of a SRTS program. Recipients of SRTS education may include students, parents, motorists and neighbors.

Enforcement strategies aim to deter unsafe behaviors of drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists, and to encourage all road users to obey traffic laws and share the road safely. Enforcement activities involve students, parents, adult crossing guards, school

personnel and neighborhood watch programs working together with law enforcement.

Irving Elementary School, located on Hyacinth Street, will greatly benefit through SRTS support. There is a severe lack of infrastructure surrounding the school. Built in 1964, the school reflects the predominant land use practices of the era with limited sidewalks. The Lane County 2011-2015 Capital Improvement Program includes a bike/pedestrian Improvement project to construct a 6-foot wide concrete sidewalk along the west side of Hyacinth Street between Irvington Drive and Calla Street during Fiscal Year 2012-2013. The future sidewalk will serve Irving Elementary School which is located on the west side of Hyacinth Street about mid-way between Irvington Drive and Calla Street.

B. Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the Order providing a letter of support to the Bethel School District for a Safe Routes to School Non-infrastructure grant application.

III. ATTACHMENT

A. Board Order and Exhibit A

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER NO.

-) IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING THE
-) BETHEL SCHOOL DISTRICT'S
-) REQUEST FOR A LETTER OF
-) SUPPORT FOR A SAFE ROUTES TO
-) SCHOOL NON-INFRASTRUCTURE
-) GRANT APPLICATION.

WHEREAS, the Bethel School District is pursuing a Safe Routes to School Non-infrastructure grant; and

WHEREAS, the Bethel School District will benefit from a safer bicycle and pedestrian environment for children attending its schools; now, therefore, it is hereby

ORDERED, that a letter of support for the Bethel School District's Safe Routes to School Non-infrastructure grant application, in substantial conformance to the letter attached herein as Exhibit A, be provided to the Bethel School District.

DATED this ____ day of June, 2010.

William A. Fleenor, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners

APPROVED AS TO FORM
Date 6-8-10 Lane County

OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL

Exhibit A

June 16, 2010

Oregon Safe Routes to School Program
Attn: Julie Yip, Safe Routes to School Coordinator
Transportation Safety Division
Oregon Department of Transportation
235 Union Street
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Ms. Yip;

Lane County Board of Commissioners is supportive of the Bethel School District's Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Non-infrastructure grant application.

Lane County's direction aligns well with the SRTS goals to create to increase the ability and opportunity for children to walk and bicycle to school; promote walking and bicycling to school and encourage a healthy and active lifestyle at an early age; and facilitate the planning, development and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption and air pollution within two miles of a school.

In particular, one of the Lane County targeted schools, Irving Elementary, will greatly benefit through SRTS support. There is a lack of infrastructure surrounding the school. Built in 1964, the school reflects the predominant land use practices of the era with limited sidewalks. Lane County has taken steps to address this by allocating funding for construction of a new six-foot wide sidewalk for school and neighborhood use.

In the meantime, the proposed grant application's non-infrastructure program areas could fund encouragement, education, and enforcement activities providing much needed and immediate services for youth safe walking practices and sets the stage for future multimodal travel use.

Lane County is committed to our children having safe routes to school. The Bethel School District Safe Routes to School Non-infrastructure grant application provides us with the necessary stepping-stones to achieve this objective.

Sincerely,

William A. Fleenor, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners