



ALEDO ISD BOARD MEETING TEMPLATE

MEETING DATE: January 23, 2017

AGENDA ITEM: Consider a resolution for the Safe Routes to School Grant Program.

PRESENTER: Dr. Derek Citty, Superintendent

ALIGNS TO BOARD GOAL(S): Safety: The District shall maintain a safe and orderly environment.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Our growing District has many instances in which students and their ability to walk to school is hampered by a lack of sidewalks. The City of Aledo seeks to provide a remedy to this issue by adding sidewalks associated within AISD schools found within their city limits.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION(S): From the City of Aledo:

“The Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA Set-Aside) Program was authorized under Section 1109 of Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) (the current transportation funding and authorization bill) and provides funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives. The TA Set-Aside Program is similar to the former Transportation Alternatives Program, Transportation Enhancement, and Safe Routes to School programs.

The NCTCOG Metropolitan Planning Area has been sub-allocated approximately \$23 million in TA Set-Aside Program funds which will be available to award as part of a 2017 Call for Projects. General types of projects eligible under this program include on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, and pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure associated with Safe Routes to School (SRTS) projects that will substantially improve safety and the ability for students to walk and bicycle to school.

The City of Aledo proposes to submit a SRTS funding application to design and construct a new sidewalk along Old Annetta Rd. from Old Tunnel Rd. to a connection with Vandagriff Elementary School, a distance of approximately 0.8 miles. When completed, this sidewalk would provide a continuous route linking 3 schools – McAnally Intermediate, Aledo Middle, and Vandagriff Elementary.

Facilities that Improve Safe Routes to School Safe Routes to School projects improve the safety and ability of students to walk and bicycle to and from a public or private

primary or middle school (grades K - 8). Schools with grades that extend higher than grade 8, but which include grades that fall within the eligible range, are eligible to receive infrastructure improvements. Projects must be within a two-mile radius and within the attendance boundary (if applicable) of the school or schools being proposed for the improvements.

Eligible infrastructure-related projects include the planning, design, and construction of infrastructure-related projects that will substantially improve the ability of students to walk and bicycle to school, including:

- *sidewalk improvements*
- *pedestrian and bicycle-related signalization/traffic control and signage*
- *traffic-calming and speed-reduction improvements*
- *pedestrian and bicycle crossing improvements*
- *on-street bicycle facilities*
- *off-street bicycle and pedestrian facilities*
- *secure bicycle parking facilities*
- *traffic diversion improvements in the vicinity of schools*
- *pedestrian lighting (safety)”*

There may be a need to consider sidewalk easements if none currently exist in the right-of-way area requested. If so, there will be a need for further consideration by Trustees of a request for such easements.

FISCAL NOTE: There is no known impact to the 2016-17 budget related to consideration of this item with the possible exception of legal review of sidewalk easements needed by the City of Aledo.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMENDATION: Administration recommends approval of this resolution.