



**DATE:** June 10, 2014

**CATEGORY:** Consent

**DEPT.:** Public Works

**TITLE:** **Safe Routes to Schools Education Program, Project 14-35**

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute All Program Supplements to the Administering Agency, State Agreement No. CML-5124(030), for Safe Routes to Schools Education Program, Project 14-35.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Vehicle Emissions Reduction Based at Schools (VERBS) program is a Federally funded, competitive grant program regionally administered through the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA). The purpose of the program is to:

- Facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of a project or activity to reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools;
- Reduce traffic-related injuries and fatalities to school children;
- Enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school; and
- Make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative.

The City was awarded a \$500,000 VERBS grant in 2010 and a successful three-year educational program was initiated in 2011. The current VERBS program provides age-appropriate educational programs for Grades K-12 students in all public and private schools in the City, as well as Los Altos High School, with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions around schools and encouraging bicycling and walking to school.

Through workshops and events such as Bike to School Day and Anything But a Car (ABC) Day, annual student transportation surveys at each of the schools show an approximately 30 percent increase in students walking and biking to school at the elementary level and approximately a 15 percent increase at the two middle schools since the start of the VERBS program. Recently published maps showing recommended pedestrian and bicycle routes to local public elementary and middle schools, prepared in conjunction with school administrators, parents' groups, the Police Department, and Traffic Engineering staff, are expected to further increase the number of students walking or biking to school. The current VERBS program will expire in August 2014.

In response to a call-for-projects request issued by the VTA on November 19, 2012, the City applied for another three-year, \$500,000 VERBS grant (through Fiscal Year 2016-17) to succeed the current program. On May 2, 2013, the VTA Board of Directors approved the City's application for \$500,000 in grant funding to continue its VERBS program activities. As the regional agency responsible for transportation planning, coordinating, and financing for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area, the MTC will monitor program funding and performance.

The Fiscal Year 2013-14 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) adopted by the City Council on June 18, 2013 included Project 14-35, Safe Routes to Schools Education Program (\$565,000), to continue funding VERBS program activities in the community for an additional three years. The funding sources for Project 14-35 included \$500,000 in anticipated VERBS grant funding and \$65,000 in General Fund Reserve funding to satisfy the local funding match requirement.

The City has received a Program Supplement Agreement in the amount of \$500,000 from the California Department of Transportation to carry out the VERBS program for another three years. The Program Supplement Agreement requires the City Council to adopt a resolution that identifies the project and naming the official authorized to execute the Program Supplement Agreement.

## **ANALYSIS**

Adoption of the attached resolution and the execution of the Program Supplement Agreement will allow the City to proceed with retaining the services of a consultant to continue the ongoing VERBS program for another three years.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The Council previously appropriated the \$500,000 in grant funding and \$65,000 in General Fund Reserve funding to the project as part of the Fiscal Year 2013-14 CIP process.

**ALTERNATIVES**

Do not adopt the resolution and seek project funding from other sources or cancel the project.

**PUBLIC NOTICING** – Agenda posting.

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DPD-LF/9/CAM  
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Attachment: 1. Resolution

Approved by:

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