

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE August 9, 2019

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **TxDOT Safe Routes to School Program Project Submittals**

On February 8, 2019, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) released a statewide call for projects for \$8.7 million in Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program funding. SRTS funding will be awarded to infrastructure projects that improve bike and pedestrian safety for children, encourage them to utilize these modes of travel to and from school, and contribute to a reduction in traffic while enhancing safety around schools.

Due to the limited availability of funding, TxDOT has advised project sponsors to submit only two projects for funding consideration. Transportation, Public Works, Planning and Urban Design, and the Park and Recreation Department collaborated on the identification of potential SRTS projects that met TxDOT's eligibility requirements. Southwest Pleasant Grove and Rosemont SRTS projects were identified as potential projects based on the history of child-pedestrian crashes along routes of proposed improvement, their ability to leverage 2017 Bond projects or other federal funding, connectivity to transit, trails, parks, and recreations centers, and their ability to be implemented within one year.

Rosemont SRTS includes design and construction of traffic calming and bicycle and pedestrian connections to the Rosemont Elementary School campus, as well as a network of limited-access safe streets throughout the surrounding neighborhood. The project will provide additional connectivity to Kidd Springs Park and the Coombs Creek Trail. Overall improvements include bump-outs and crosswalks, speed bumps, a two-way cycle track, through-traffic diversion at certain intersections, signage, sidewalks where necessary, a bikeway extension onto campus, and two bike racks beside the school. The estimated total project cost is \$798,036.

The North Central Texas Council of Governments previously awarded \$80,000 to Rosemont SRTS for design. The submittal of Rosemont to the TxDOT SRTS call for projects will allow for the remaining design to be completed and for construction to be funded.

Southwest Pleasant Grove SRTS includes improvements to major pedestrian routes leading to schools within the Comstock Middle School, Ireland Elementary School, and Adams Elementary School Attendance Zones. This project will provide connectivity to other mobility options and existing and planned trail and shared-use path projects in the area, including, paths on Elam Road and Pemberton Hill (Bond Project). The improvements include updating school zones to Texas Manual on Unified Traffic Control Device (TMUTCD) standards, improvements to sidewalks, curb ramps, markings and other signage to create safe and comfortable routes. The estimated total project cost is

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\$924,695. The submittal of Southwest Pleasant Grove to the TxDOT SRTS call will allow for planning, development, and construction of the project to be funded.

A City Council resolution committing the City to enter into an agreement with TxDOT, should the projects be selected for funding, is required with the detailed application for the projects to remain eligible for selection. The deadline for the detailed application is August 15, 2019 and selected projects will be identified in December of 2019.

There is no cost consideration to the City. SRTS is a cost reimbursable program and awarded projects will be 100 percent federally funded. A local match is not required, but the local government is responsible for cost overruns. If funding for the City of Dallas SRTS projects is awarded, there will be a future agenda item for execution of a funding agreement with TxDOT and acceptance of grant funds.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.



Majed A. Al-Ghafry, P.E.
Assistant City Manager

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Chris Caso, City Attorney (Interim)
Mark Swann, City Auditor
Billerae Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager
Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager

Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Nadia Chandler Hardy, Assistant City Manager and Chief Resilience Officer
Michael Mendoza, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
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M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion
Directors and Assistant Directors