



City of Woodland

REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

DATE: July 7, 2009

SUBJECT: Safe Routes to School, Project No. 08-26; Approve Plans and Specifications, Authorize Bid Advertisement, and Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Construction Contract

Report in Brief

The Safe Routes to School Project will improve visibility of pedestrians and bicyclists traveling at or near six of the ten elementary schools in Woodland. The project includes installation of traffic calming medians and in-pavement lights at Freeman and Maxwell Schools; in-pavement lights near Dingle School; in-pavement lights at existing crossings near Zamora and Tafoya Schools; speed bumps near Tafoya School and ADA ramps near Beamer School as well as other improvements.

The improvements are geared toward improving visibility of pedestrians and bicyclists traveling near our local schools. It is the City's hope that these improvements will encourage students to walk and bike to school which, in turn, will reduce traffic, improve air quality and promote healthy lifestyles.

The engineer's estimate for construction is \$660,785. The total project budget including design and project management is \$705,720.

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the plans and specifications, authorize bid advertisement and authorize the City Manager to execute the construction contract to the lowest, responsive, responsible bidder if bids are within 110% of the approved budget.

Background

The Safe Routes to School Program is intended to reduce traffic and improve air quality near schools by increasing the number of children who walk or bicycle to school. These goals are obtained by funding projects that improve pedestrian visibility and promote walking and bicycling. Seven cycles of this state funded grant have been completed since the program was established in 1999.

In September 2007, the Engineering Division met individually with Woodland elementary schools to identify areas with high pedestrian traffic that would benefit from this grant funding. The project

concepts were completed by Engineering and then reviewed and approved by the school officials, school site councils, the district transportation department and the Woodland Police Department. When this process was finalized, the City submitted the grant application in November 2007.

The City received notification in April 2008 that funding had been awarded for this project. Staff immediately filed all required paperwork with Caltrans and in late July 2008, received authorization to begin work on the project. Since then, staff has been working toward the completion of the design phase of the project with a goal of summer 2009 construction.

After preliminary design was complete, staff met with each of the schools to verify that the designs met the schools needs and expectations. The conceptual plans and parking restrictions were publicly noticed and were approved by the Traffic Safety Commission with a 3-0 vote on April 6, 2009.

Discussion

The project is in conformance with the requirements of the Safe Routes to School Grant and is fully supported by the schools and neighboring residents. The schools have requested and staff supports the request to begin construction as soon as possible so the project can be complete by the end of the first quarter of the school year. Each school has been informed that construction will occur after the 2009/10 school year begins and that work will be completed during school hours. Construction will be limited such that wherever reasonable, work is completed or temporarily shut down during peak drop-off/pick-up times to avoid disruption to the schools.

Upon Council authorization, bids will be solicited with a projected opening date of August 11, 2009. As Council does not meet during August, staff requests that Council authorize the City Manager to execute the construction contract if bids are within 110% of the approved budget. By authorizing the City Manager to execute the contract, work will likely begin the first week of September with a completion scheduled for mid November.

If the City Manager is not authorized to execute the contract, staff will return to Council for contract execution on September 1 and construction would likely begin the last week of September with completion scheduled for mid December. Staff is concerned that this delayed schedule will result in further delays due to inclement weather.

The project plans and specifications are available for review in CDD Engineering and explanations of the project details are available from CDD Transportation Engineering Staff at 661-5961.

Fiscal Impact

The project is included in the FY08/09 Mid-Year Capital Budget approved on January 20, 2009. The total project budget is \$705,720 of which \$630,720 is grant funding and the remaining \$75,000 is Road Development funds.

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There is no impact to the General Fund.

Public Contact

Posting of the City Council agenda.

Commission Recommendation

Traffic Safety Commission approved the conceptual plans and parking restrictions with a 3-0 vote on April 6, 2009.

Recommendation for Action

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the plans and specifications, authorize bid advertisement and authorize the City Manager to execute the construction contract to the lowest, responsive, responsible bidder if bids are within 110% of the approved budget.

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