
Sponsor: Public Works

Meeting Date: 12/21/2021

Title: Grant Applications to the Minnesota Department of Transportation for Safe Routes to School Funding Requests for the Koehler Road Trail Project and the Lexington Avenue Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon Pedestrian Crossing Project

File Number: 2021-660

Background and Rationale:

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) is currently soliciting grant applications for \$8 million of Safe Routes to School (SRTS) state grant funding available through a competitive statewide solicitation process. The primary purpose of SRTS grants is to assist counties, cities, townships, school districts and federally recognized tribes provide multi-use trails, sidewalks, pedestrian crossings and other related infrastructure so students can safely bike and walk to school. SRTS full grant applications are due January 14, 2022. MnDOT is expected to announce SRTS grant awards by March 4, 2022. For further details about SRTS grant application and SRTS solicitation process please visit the following Minnesota Department of Transportation's website link: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/saferoutes/infrastructure-grants.html>

The Koehler Road trail project is located in the city of Vadnais Heights and would provide a new shared used bicycle and pedestrian trail from Edgerton Street to Centerville Road, addressing a critical bicycle and pedestrian facility disconnect to nearby Vadnais Heights Elementary School. This project is proposed for construction in 2023 with a total estimated cost of \$847,000. A letter of support for the application has been provided by White Bear Lake Area Schools. The city of Vadnais Heights is also in the process of approving a resolution of support for the application and their pro-rata share of local cost participation.

The Lexington Avenue Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) pedestrian crossing project is located at the intersection of Lexington Avenue and Royal Oaks Drive in the city of Shoreview at Turtle Lake Elementary School. The proposed RRFB pedestrian crossing at this location would significantly improve pedestrian visibility and safety along this high speed and highly traveled segment of Lexington Avenue. The project is proposed for construction in 2022 with a total estimated cost of \$140,000. A letter of support for the application has been provided by Mounds View Area Schools. The city of Shoreview is also in the process of approving a resolution of support for the application and their pro-rata share of local cost participation.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Support construction of the Koehler Road trail project and the Lexington Avenue Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon pedestrian crossing project and agree to maintain such improvements.
2. Support submittal of the Koehler Road trail \$500,000 Safe Routes to School grant application request and the Lexington Avenue Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon pedestrian crossing \$80,000 Safe Routes to School grant application request.
3. Provide assurance that all costs associated with the Koehler Road trail project and Lexington Avenue Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon pedestrian crossing project beyond the Safe Routes to School grant awards will be paid for with county and city funds.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Frethem, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt.

Motion passed.

Aye: - 7: Carter, Frethem, MatasCastillo, McDonough, McGuire, Ortega, and Reinhardt

By: 

Mee Cheng, Chief Clerk - County Board