

**CITY OF ALBANY  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA  
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: December 7, 2008  
Reviewed by: BP

**SUBJECT:** Resolution authorizing the City Administrator to execute the Program Supplemental Agreement with Caltrans for the implementation of a State Safe Routes to School Program (SR2S) project at Marin Elementary School.

**REPORT BY:** Aleida Andrino-Chavez, Transportation Planner

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt Resolution No. 0950 presented in Exhibit A authorizing the City Administrator to execute the State Program Supplement No. G37 (Exhibit B) for the implementation of the State Safe Routes to School Program (SR2S) project at Marin Elementary School.

**BACKGROUND**

Marin Elementary School sits along Marin Avenue between Santa Fe Avenue and Curtis Street. The Marin/Santa Fe intersection is signalized and its geometry describes an acute angle in relation to the school, making the location of the crosswalks offset from the intersection. In addition, the signal at this intersection is outdated and does not have vehicle detection. It works at a “fixed” phase creating inefficiencies in traffic flow and contributing to increased congestion at peak hours.

Due to the intersection geometry, pedestrians face a difficult time when crossing Marin Avenue to and from school. Likewise, motorists do not readily see pedestrians crossing Marin Avenue when turning right onto Marin Avenue from northbound or southbound Santa Fe Avenue. Adding to these difficulties, pedestrians do not have an ideal of how much time is left to the Marin/Santa Fe intersection safely.

When City staff initiated efforts to start developing a pedestrian plan, a team of expert volunteers, including staff from TransForm, then TALC (Transportation of Land Use Coalition), Fehr and Peers (pro bono), teachers and parents got together to conduct walking audits around the three elementary schools. The audits were intended to identify possible pedestrian enhancements that could be implemented in the future and be part of potential grant applications.

## **DISCUSSION**

In the summer of 2009, the City was successful in obtaining a State Safe Routes to School (SR2S) grant in the amount of \$575,820 for the implementation of a new traffic signal, controller and pedestrian safety improvements at the intersection of Santa Fe and Marin Avenues and also sidewalk widening along Curtis Street, the eastern limit of Marin Elementary School. This grant includes both, engineering and educational components. The engineering enhancements proposed under this grant are presented in Exhibit C and include:

- Installation of a new controller and traffic signal with detection system (loop or video)
- Pedestrian count down signals.
- Installation of two (2) “speed feedback” solar signs on Marin Avenue.
- Curb realignment at the intersection of Marin and Santa Fe Avenues to decrease the curb returns.
- Installation of two (2) speed humps on the 1000 block of Santa Fe Avenue.
- ADA ramp realignment adjacent to Marin Elementary west side on Santa Fe Ave.
- Sidewalk widening from 4’ to 5’ adjacent to the Marin Elementary along Curtis Street to meet current ADA standards
- Installation of additional bike racks at Marin Elementary

This grant includes \$23,269 for educational activities that will allow the City to continue the educational program that was started with the Ocean View Elementary School grant at the three elementary schools in Albany. Thanks to the educational program, the elementary schools in Albany have several walking school buses and feature the monthly “Walk and Roll to School Day” the first Wednesday of each month. Throughout the year, elementary schools hold several events oriented at educating children and parents about being street smart and encouraging them to walk or bike to school and spare the air.

As part of the requirements of the grant, and prior to initiating any expenditures associated with it, the City must execute two (2) copies of the project specific Program Supplement for the project. Because the City already has a State Master Agreement on file with Caltrans due to the existing Ocean View SR2S grant, the City does not have to execute this document. Both documents allow the City to enter into a contract with Caltrans in order to accomplish the project.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT**

The implementation of SR2S programs encourage walking and bicycling to school as an alternative to the automobile. The state program and the federal version have as foremost objectives the reduction of children fatalities around school neighborhoods and the promotion of active forms of transportation to reduce children obesity in the United States.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The project cost is estimated at \$ 639,800. The SR2S grant covers 90% of the total project costs. Local matching sources of funding in the amount of \$64,000 are a combination of non-discretionary Measure B funds, Gas Tax, and TDA.

### Exhibits:

Exhibit A: Resolution No. 09-50

Exhibit B: Program Supplement No. 0G37 Rev.000

Exhibit C: Marin Elementary Improvements