

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

Agenda Date: 06/07/10
Reviewed by: BP

SUBJECT: Authorize the City Administrator to execute Contract Agreement No. C10-9 with TransForm for the implementation of Safe Routes to School (SR2S) activities at the three elementary Schools in Albany.

REPORT BY: Aleida Andrino-Chavez, Transportation Planner

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the City Administrator to enter into Contract No. C10-9 with TransForm for the implementation of specified items contained in the Educational component of the SR2S program at the three elementary schools in Albany in the amount of \$5,950.

BACKGROUND

In 2009, the City was successful in obtaining a SR2S grant in the amount of \$575,820 for the implementation of pedestrian safety improvements around Marin Elementary School and a new traffic signal at the Marin/Santa Fe Avenues intersection. The grant application also includes the implementation of an educational component that aims at promoting safe ways to walk or bike to school among children of elementary school age. The amount of funds assigned to the educational component is \$25,855, which includes \$2,586 in matching funds from local sources.

The engineering, as well as the educational components of the project are currently ongoing., The City, through Council approval, hired AECOM for the engineering component.

City staff is working with TransForm, formerly the Transportation and Land Use Coalition (TALC), for the implementation of most of the educational activities at the three elementary schools. TransForm is the non-profit organization that is responsible for the administration of the Safe Routes to School Program in Alameda County. Since the beginning of the 2008/09 school year the City has coordinated with TransForm to provide guidance on training volunteer parents how to lead walking school buses and implement a monthly “Walk to School Day” at the elementary school level. To date, the three elementary schools have implemented walking school buses and have established walking routes.

After the International Walk to School Day in October 2008, schools principals and parents were interested in holding the event every month, which led to the creation of the Albany Walk/Roll to School Day on the third Wednesday of every month. The event is held by parent volunteers, City staff, and TransForm staff, and has been very popular among school children.

DISCUSSION

In order to formalize the implementation of the SR2S program, it is necessary to enter into a contract with TransForm. The City entered into a contract with TransForm for the previous SR2S grant that was obtained for Ocean View Elementary School for the implementation of the traffic signal at Buchanan and Jackson Streets. This new contract will allow City staff and TransForm staff to incur in expenses and to continue implementation of the successful SR2S program that is taking place at the elementary school level in Albany.

Since some of the components of the educational program will be implemented by the City (e.g., Bicycle Rodeo, monthly Safe Routes to School Day), the contract with TransForm will be in the amount of \$5,950. Attached are the budget and the agency responsible for conducting each activity for the SR2S program being implemented in Albany.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

The environmental impact of implementing an educational SR2S program is greatly beneficial for the City as this program encourages walking and bicycling to school, therefore reducing the carbon footprint in the City.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The financial impact of implementing a SR2S program in Albany is in the amount of \$2,586 which represents the local match. In the grant application, as well as in the CIP, the City proposes to use a combination of Gas Tax and FY 09/10 and FY 10/11 non-discretionary Measure B funds for the local match. Thus, no General Fund money would be needed.

Attachment

Safe Routes to School Budget and Activity List