

Memorandum

To: Traffic and Safety Commission - Item 6-3
Cc: Jeff Bond
From: Aleida Andrino-Chavez
Date: 7/24/2012
Re: **Request to the Albany Board of Education to adopt the City Safe Routes to School Program**

The City of Albany has been fortunate to receive four Safe Routes to Schools grants through federal (SRTS) and state (SR2S) programs in the last six years totaling \$1.5 million dollars for infrastructure projects around Ocean View and Marin Elementary Schools. These grants have enhanced the physical surroundings of these schools making it safer for pedestrians and children to walk and ride their bicycles to school.

The National Center for Safe Routes to School has developed criteria upon which each project should be evaluated. These criteria include the inclusion of the four E's in every infrastructure project: Engineering, Enforcement, Education, and Evaluation. The SR2S and SRTS programs provide flexibility to start an educational component at the school where the infrastructure project is being implemented by allowing the applicant to apply for an educational component up to 10 percent of the cost of the infrastructure project, so that the project has a better probability of being successful.

The City of Albany has applied for an educational component every time and SR2S infrastructure application is submitted and thanks to this educational component allocation, the SR2S Program was created in Albany in 2007. The City partnered with TransForm, a non-profit organization that administers the SR2S program in Alameda County for the delivery of the educational program. Through this partnership, the City has established the monthly walk and roll to school day, International Walk to School Day in October, Bike to School Day in May, the Pollution Solution Contest in the spring, the Bike Program during P.E. and theatrical educational presentations at each elementary school. Some of these activities are also being implemented at the Middle School and thanks to a federal SRTS grant that the City obtained recently, there is funding to hire a Safe Routes to School Coordinator and to implement the educational program at the Middle School level.

The success of the Albany grant applications is attributable to a multi-agency approach to the SR2S program. The involvement of the Principal and the PTAs of the respective schools in the planning stage of each infrastructure project and the partnership with TransForm for the educational component has proven a valuable asset for grant applications and for the program itself. From walking audits to presentations of design options, the City has worked with the schools and TransForm in developing projects and SR2S educational programs that would benefit the schools. This multi-agency approach has also created a SR2S Task Force, a group that includes parent volunteers from each of the three elementary schools, staff from the City and from TransForm. The SR2S Task Force meets quarterly to plan and monitor the SR2S activities for each school year.

The goals of the national and state SR2S programs are: Increase the safety of school kids on their way to and from school, get kids involved in active transportation, and reduce traffic congestion and emissions resulting from transportation sources around schools.

The Albany Active Transportation Plan includes many projects that would benefit schools that could be potential SR2S grant applications. Applications score higher if there is evidence of interagency support. Therefore, showing interagency collaboration in the form of an adopted resolution by the AUSD would demonstrate to the granting agencies the official establishment of a SR2S Program in the City and would make the City grant application stand out and score higher. Staff recommends the Traffic and Safety Commission to consider requesting the AUSD to become official partners in the SR2S program. The attached draft resolution is for discussion purposes by the Traffic and Safety Commission. Once the document is finalized later in the year, it will be presented to the AUSD as a request for consideration.

Sample Resolution to Adopt Safe Routes to Schools Program

Whereas, the City of Albany has garnered \$1.5 million for infrastructure projects through State (SR2S) and Federal Safe Route to School (SRTS) programs

Whereas, with each infrastructure grant SR2S grant application, the City of Albany has taken advantage of the flexibility in funding for educational programs that allows for up to 10% of the construction cost to be allocated for educational programs, and

Whereas, through this funding mechanism, the SR2S Program in Albany was created in 2007 with the Ocean View Elementary School SR2S Project to improve safety for pedestrians at the intersection of Buchanan Street and Jackson Street, and

Whereas, subsequent capital grants have provided a stream of funds to continue the SR2S Educational program activities, and

Whereas, the City has partnered with TransForm and with the PTAs of the three elementary schools for the delivery of the educational component, and

Whereas, the Albany SR2S program through the grants mentioned above and its partnership with TransForm and with the schools, directly supports the following programs in Albany elementary schools:

1. Monthly Walk and Roll to School Days treats and giveaways
2. Annual walking/cycling/carpooling encouragement contests
3. Annual International Walk and Roll to School Day Celebrations
4. Bicycling education for all 4th and 5th graders
5. Walking/cycling/carpooling encouragement curriculum materials
6. Assemblies with puppet shows featuring safe walking and rolling to school
7. Bikemobile repair van at events, and

Whereas, some of these programs have been also implemented at the Middle School, and

Whereas, the City of Albany has secured a federal Safe Routes to School grant (SRTS) to support a half time Safe Routes to School Coordinator position who will administer the SR2S program in the City starting in the 2012-2013 school year, and

Whereas, the Albany Active Transportation Plan recommends several pedestrian and bicycle projects around schools that could be potential candidates for SR2S or SRTS grants, and

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Whereas, grant applications that show interagency coordination, score higher in ranking and have better probability of being funded;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the AUSD adopt the Albany SR2S program in support of the efforts made to educate children and the school community to become better pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists; and to advance active modes of transportation, decrease congestion and emissions from transportation sources around schools in Albany.