

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

Agenda Date: July 7, 2008
Reviewed by: BP

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

REPORT BY: Aleida Andrino-Chavez, Transportation Planner

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Resolution No. 08-42 authorizing the City Administrator to execute the State Master Agreement No. 00131S and Program Supplement No. 0E42 Rev 000 for the implementation of the State Safe Routes to School Program (SR2S) project at Ocean View Elementary School.

BACKGROUND

Ocean View Elementary School sits at the corner of Jackson Street and Buchanan Street. This intersection has been found to be “warranted” for a two directional (east-west) left turn crossing phase at the signal. However, the City has not had the funds to implement this change. The lack of a left turn signal at this intersection creates competition for the limited green light phase between pedestrians and vehicles, particularly in the east-west direction. The high volume of vehicles on Buchanan Street, reaching over 30,000 vehicles per day, exacerbates this condition particularly during peak hours.

As part of the first efforts to develop a Pedestrian Plan, City staff initiated conversations with the School PTA and scheduled a “walking audit” around Ocean View Elementary School in mid-November, 2007. This audit was intended to identify possible pedestrian enhancements that could be implemented in the future and be part of a grant that staff was preparing for the SR2S program.

DISCUSSION

In April 2008, the City was successful in obtaining a SR2S grant in the amount of \$293,760 for the implementation of a new traffic signal, controller and pedestrian safety improvements at the Buchanan Street and Jackson Street intersection, as well as along various streets that are on the route to Ocean View Elementary School. The enhancements proposed under this grant include:

- Installation of a new controller and traffic signal with a protected north-south directional left-turn phase in dedicated east-west lanes on Buchanan Street. Currently the consultant is evaluating if a four-way protected left turn is warranted.
- Pedestrian count down signals.
- Installation of two (2) “speed feedback” solar signs on Buchanan Street.
- Zebra striped pedestrian crosswalks at Solano Avenue/Adams Street, Solano Avenue/Madison Street, and Solano Avenue/Jackson Street.
- Zebra striped pedestrian crosswalks along Buchanan Street and the side streets west of Jackson in order to define the route to Ocean View School for students coming from the west side of Albany.
- Realignment of two ramps at the intersection of Madison Street and Solano Avenue to bring the intersection to current ADA standards
- Implementation of an educational program at the Ocean View Elementary School

The goals of the SR2S program are to reduce injuries and fatalities to school children, and to encourage increased walking and bicycling among students.

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 a State Master Agreement and two copies (2) of the project specific Program Supplement. These documents allow the City to enter into a contract with Caltrans in order to accomplish the project.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The project cost is estimated at \$ 333,000. The SR2S grant covers approximately 88% of the total project costs. Local matching sources of funding are non-discretionary Measure B funds in the amount of \$40,000.