



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Inter-Departmental Correspondence

Office of Sustainability



Date: November 21, 2016
Board Meeting Date: December 13, 2016
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: 4/5ths

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Jim Eggemeyer, Director, Office of Sustainability

Subject: Contract with San Mateo County Office of Education to Implement the Safe Routes to School Health and Wellness Program Grant from the California Transportation Commission

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt resolutions:

- A) Authorizing the Office of Sustainability to enter into an agreement with San Mateo County Office of Education to implement a comprehensive Safe Routes to Schools for Health and Wellness program as identified in the California Transportation Commission Active Transportation Program (ATP) grant awarded to the San Mateo County Office of Education; and
- B) Authorizing an Appropriation Transfer Request accepting \$900,000 in grant funds from the California Department of Transportation on behalf of the San Mateo County Office of Education for the administration and operation of the Safe Routes to Schools Program.

BACKGROUND:

In September 2013, the Governor signed Senate Bill 99 (Chapter 359, Statutes 2013) and Assembly Bill 101 (Chapter 254, Statutes 2013) into law, creating the Active Transportation Program (ATP). The ATP consolidates a number of other funding sources intended to promote walking and bicycling, such as the Bicycle Transportation Account and Transportation Alternatives Program, into one program. Over a three year period encompassing three grant cycles, the State plans to award approximately \$1 billion worth of grant funds for Active Transportation projects. The majority of the funds are dispersed by the State and a portion of the funds are dispersed by regional entities such as the Metropolitan Transportation Commission.

On May 13, 2014, the San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE) submitted an Active Transportation Program grant application to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for Cycle 1 of the ATP statewide competitive funding call for projects. On December 10, 2014, the CTC approved the SRTSHW project for inclusion in the list of recommended projects for funding.

DISCUSSION:

The SRTSHW program is designed to increase the number of children who bike and walk to school with a focus on long term sustainability. The program aims to facilitate long-term sustainability and increase the number of children walking and bicycling to school through three main components:

1. Integrating Safe Routes to School Education into Physical Education and Health Education classes
2. Develop healthy and safe school travel environments and school campuses
3. Empower families and communities to provide ongoing Safe Routes to School education

The SRTSHW program will create a more sustainable program model utilizing a transformational leadership model focused on building the internal capacity of educators, school communities and parents. The SRTSHW program will provide funding to continue and expand the Safe Routes to Schools programs currently offered by SMCOE to shift modes away from single-family vehicular trips to active and alternative forms of transportation in 174 San Mateo County schools benefitting approximately 95,000 students.

This proposed agreement between the Office of Sustainability and SMCOE is required for SMCOE to be considered for official approval for the allocation of \$900,000 to fund the SRTSHW program since SMCOE cannot officially receive funds from Caltrans. Since the County of San Mateo currently has a Master Agreement with Caltrans, the Office of Sustainability will accept the funds and administer the fiscal requirements of the grant on behalf of the SMCOE. The Office of Sustainability will receive up to five percent of the grant funds to cover the cost of administering the fiscal obligations associated with the grant. The agreement requires SMCOE to manage and implement the tasks related to the SRTSHW program.

The SMCOE staff will administer the SRTSHW program targeting critical areas of long-term sustainability through three key elements: in class education aligned to existing education standards, the development of school cultures that support safe and healthy school travel, and the empowerment of parents and community to embrace active forms of transportation.

These tasks will be carried out concurrently over a three year period beginning in July, 2017 and continuing through March, 2020.

The contract is provided in Exhibit A to this staff report.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the contract and resolution as to form.

SHARED VISION 2025:

Approval of this agreement contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcomes of an environmentally conscious community by increasing the proportion of trips made by bicycling and walking rather than by automobile. This project will help shift some daily trips from driving to cycling thereby reducing pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from automobiles. STEP also contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of a livable and healthy community by reducing injuries from traffic collisions and by increasing community interaction. Walking and bicycling reduces risk of chronic disease and improves social cohesion, reducing rates of crime.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE:

Measure	FY 2016-17 Actual	FY 2017-18 Projected
Increase by 8% the proportion of daily trips made by walking (16.6%), bicycling (1.5%), and public transportation (4.4%)	Estimated 22.5%	25%

The California Household Travel Survey (2010) reports the average state-wide proportion of daily trips made by walking, bicycling and public transportation totals 22.5% of all daily trips. Data specific to the STEP project area will be collected as part of the project to establish baseline rates and to measure project effectiveness.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Approval of the Appropriation Transfer Request will appropriate funds in the amount of \$900,000 from the California Department of Transportation to the Office of Sustainability. The Office of Sustainability is accepting the grant funds on behalf of the San Mateo County Office of Education for the administration and operation of the Safe Routes to Schools Program. The Office of Sustainability will receive up to 5% of the total grant to cover in-house administrative costs. The grant funds do not require a match, therefore, there is no Net County Cost associated with this transfer.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Contract with San Mateo County Office of Education