

City of Alexandria, Virginia

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MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** MAY 16, 2011

**TO:** THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:**  BRUCE JOHNSON, ACTING CITY MANAGER

**SUBJECT:** CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AN APPLICATION TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR A 2011 SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL GRANT

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**ISSUE:** Consideration of a resolution supporting an application to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) for a 2011 Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grant.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the City Council:

- 1) Adopt the attached resolution;
- 2) Authorize the City Manager to submit a Safe Routes to School grant application in the amount of \$500,000 to install pedestrian countdown signals and associated pedestrian safety improvements at 10-15 intersections within a two-mile radius of schools; and
- 3) Execute all necessary documents that may be required.

**BACKGROUND:** The Safe Routes to School program, created by Section 1404 of the 2005 Safe, Accountable, Flexible Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), established a federally-funded program to provide communities with the opportunity to improve conditions for bicycling and walking to school, in grades K through 8.

Since 2007, the City of Alexandria and the Alexandria City Public Schools applied for and received several infrastructure and non-infrastructure grants. In 2010, school volunteers and staff administered a successful Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program reaching 7,000 children with a total of 400 volunteer hours. Conceptual design for three intersection improvements by schools were also completed as part of the City's SRTS grant, with intersection improvements at the Charles Barrett School undergoing final design.

**DISCUSSION:** To further improve safety, the City would like to apply for a SRTS grant for \$500,000 to install pedestrian countdown signals and associated pedestrian safety improvements at 10-15 intersection within a two-mile radius of City schools, starting with intersections that have high crash rates, long crossing distances, and high volumes of pedestrians.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Safe Routes to School grants do not require a local match. Virginia's SRTS Program is a reimbursable grant program and all costs submitted are subject to eligibility requirements. The infrastructure project application will be for a total amount of \$500,000 if awarded. The grant requires staff time from members of the Transportation and Environmental Services and Finance Departments, and the Office of Management and Budget. The grant applications are due on June 3, 2011.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: Resolution for Safe Routes to School grant.

**STAFF:**

Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager

Michele Evans, Deputy City Manager

Richard J. Baier, P.E., LEED AP, Director, Transportation and Environmental Services

Abi Lerner, P.E., Deputy Director, Transportation and Environmental Services

Sandra Marks, AICP, Chief, Transportation Planning Division, T&ES

Carrie Sanders, AICP, Principal Transportation Planner, T&ES

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Safe Routes to School Program of the Virginia Department of Transportation allocation procedures, it is necessary that a request by City Council resolution be made in order that the Virginia Department of Transportation fund Safe Routes to School applications for:

- ✓ A Project grant of \$500,000 to make safety improvements including installation of pedestrian countdown signals and associated pedestrian safety improvements at 10-15 intersections within a 2-mile radius of schools

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council that the City Manager is authorized, for and on behalf of the City of Alexandria, hereafter referred to as the PUBLIC BODY, to execute and file an application to the Department of Transportation, Commonwealth of Virginia, hereafter referred to as the DEPARTMENT, for financial assistance in the amount of \$500,000 to defray the costs borne by the PUBLIC BODY for Safe Routes to School programs; and to accept from the DEPARTMENT reimbursements in such amounts as expenses are submitted, and to authorize the City Manager to furnish the DEPARTMENT grants in such amounts as may be awarded, and to authorize the City Manager to furnish to the DEPARTMENT such documents and other information as may be required for processing the application. The City Council certifies that the funds shall be used in accordance with the requirements of Section 58.1-638.A of the Code of Virginia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the PUBLIC BODY is not required to provide local matching funds and that the records of receipts of expenditures of funds granted the PUBLIC BODY may be subject to audit by the DEPARTMENT and by the State Auditor of Public Accounts, and that funds granted to the PUBLIC BODY for defraying the expenses of the PUBLIC BODY shall be used only for such purposes as authorized in the Code of Virginia. The undersigned duly qualified and acting as City Clerk of the PUBLIC BODY certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution, adopted at a legally convened meeting of the City Council held on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of May 2011.

ADOPTED this 24<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2011  
City of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
William D. Euille  
Mayor

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Jackie M. Henderson, MMC  
Clerk of Council

**RESOLUTION NO. 2454**

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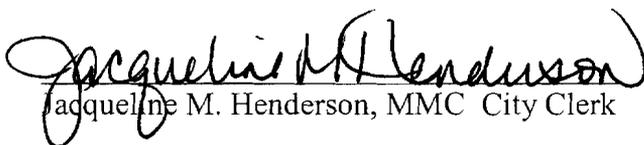
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the PUBLIC BODY is not required to provide local matching funds and that the records of receipts of expenditures of funds granted the PUBLIC BODY may be subject to audit by the DEPARTMENT and by the State Auditor of Public Accounts, and that funds granted to the PUBLIC BODY for defraying the expenses of the PUBLIC BODY shall be used only for such purposes as authorized in the Code of Virginia. The undersigned duly qualified and acting as City Clerk of the PUBLIC BODY certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution, adopted at a legally convened meeting of the City Council held on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of May 2011.

Adopted: May 24, 2011



**WILLIAM D. EUILLE    MAYOR**

ATTEST:



Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC City Clerk