REPORT TO COUNCIL
City of Sacramento

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2604
www. CityofSacramento.org

Consent

November 28, 2006

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

Title: Application to the State of California for Safe Routes to Schools Funding

Location/Council District: Sidewalk and crossing improvements at Rio Linda Boulevard and Marysville Boulevard, Location map – Exhibit A of Resolution, (District 2); and, Multiple school locations citywide.

Recommendation: Adopt a **Resolution** authorizing the City Manager to submit an application for funding to the Safe Routes to School Grant Program for: 1) New sidewalk and pedestrian crossing improvements for Robla Elementary School at Rio Linda Boulevard and Marysville Boulevard, and 2) a Citywide walking and bicycling safety program to be added to the existing after-school programs.

Contact: Edward Cox, Program Analyst, 808-8434; Theresa Arnold, Special Projects Engineer, 808-5514

Presenters: None

Department: Department of Transportation

Division: Engineering Services

Organization No: 3435

Description/Analysis

Issue: The purpose of the program is to make bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements for school-related travel. The Safe Routes to School Grant Program is a federal grant program that provides $68 million to local agencies throughout the state over a five year time frame. The current call for projects, the first of two, authorizes granting $45 million. A second call for projects for the remaining $23 million will be sometime next year.

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has established the following goals for the Safe Routes to School Grant projects:

1. Enable and encourage children to walk and bicycle to school.
2. Make walking and bicycling to school a safer and more appealing lifestyle choice.
3. Facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of projects that improve safety in the vicinity of schools.

Caltrans announced a call for projects in October 2006 for the Safe Routes to School Grant Program. Project nominations are due by January 2, 2007. The City has applied for several Safe Routes to School grants over the past five years. Last year, the City applied for a project at Robla Elementary School, but was not successful in receiving this grant.

Proposed projects for the Safe Routes to School Grant Program need to be easily deliverable without major right-of-way issues or complex environmental studies.

The Safe Routes to School funds are separated into two categories: infrastructure projects and non-infrastructure projects. Infrastructure projects include capital improvement projects such as new curbs, gutters, sidewalks, traffic signals and traffic calming devices. Non-infrastructure projects are programs that are intended to change community behavior, attitudes and social norms to make it safer for children in K-8 to walk and bicycle to school. Local jurisdictions are encouraged to apply for both categories.

The City will be submitting one infrastructure application and one non-infrastructure application. These are as follows:

1. Installation of new sidewalks and crossing improvements at Rio Linda Boulevard and Marysville Boulevard. This project will enable safer passage for school children who walk or bike to Robla Elementary School. The estimated cost for this is $650,000.
2. Implement a walking and bicycling safety program within the existing after school programs currently offered Citywide. The estimated cost for this is $375,000.

Policy Considerations: These projects are consistent with the City's Strategic Plan goal to promote and support economic vitality by investing in infrastructure development to support sustainable growth.

Environmental Considerations: This report is not considered a project as defined by Section 15378 of the California Environmental Quality Act guidelines. The recommended action involves no physical construction and has no potential to cause a significant impact to the environment. An environmental document will be prepared at the time the project receives funding.

Rationale for Recommendation: The Robla Elementary School project is ranked number 6 in the 2006 Transportation Programming Guide (TPG) Sidewalks to Schools Section. The projects that rank higher in the TPG do not qualify. High School projects do not qualify because they fall outside of the K-8 age group. The Taylor Street School project (number 2 in the TPG) is not recommended since it received Safe Routes to Schools funds three years ago.

Financial Considerations: Federal funding will allow the City to deliver priority projects and programs sooner. Local match funding is not required for any of these funds. The estimated cost for the Robla Elementary School project is $650,000. The estimated cost for the Citywide walking and bicycling safety program within the existing after school programs is $375,000.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): None, since no goods or services are being procured with this action.

Respectfully Submitted by: _____
Nicholas Theocharides
Engineering Services Manager

Approved by: _____
Jerry Way
Director of Transportation

Recommendation Approved:

for _____
RAY KERRIDGE
City Manager

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Attachment 1

RESOLUTION NO.

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

APPLICATION FOR SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL FUNDING FOR ROBLA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND CITYWIDE WALKING AND BICYCLE SAFETY PROGRAM

BACKGROUND

A. The State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has issued a call for projects to receive federal funding from the Safe Routes to Schools Program. This funding falls into two categories: infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects.

B. The Robla Elementary School project will provide new pedestrian improvements to enable safer passage for school children who walk or bike school. The estimated cost for this is $650,000.

C. The Citywide walking and bicycling safety program will be a new addition to existing after school programs. The estimated cost for this is $375,000.

BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Manager is authorized to submit an application for funding to the Safe Routes to School Grant Program for two projects:

1. New sidewalk and pedestrian crossing improvements for Robla Elementary School at Rio Linda Boulevard and Marysville Boulevard.

2. A Citywide walking and bicycling safety program to be added to the existing after school programs.

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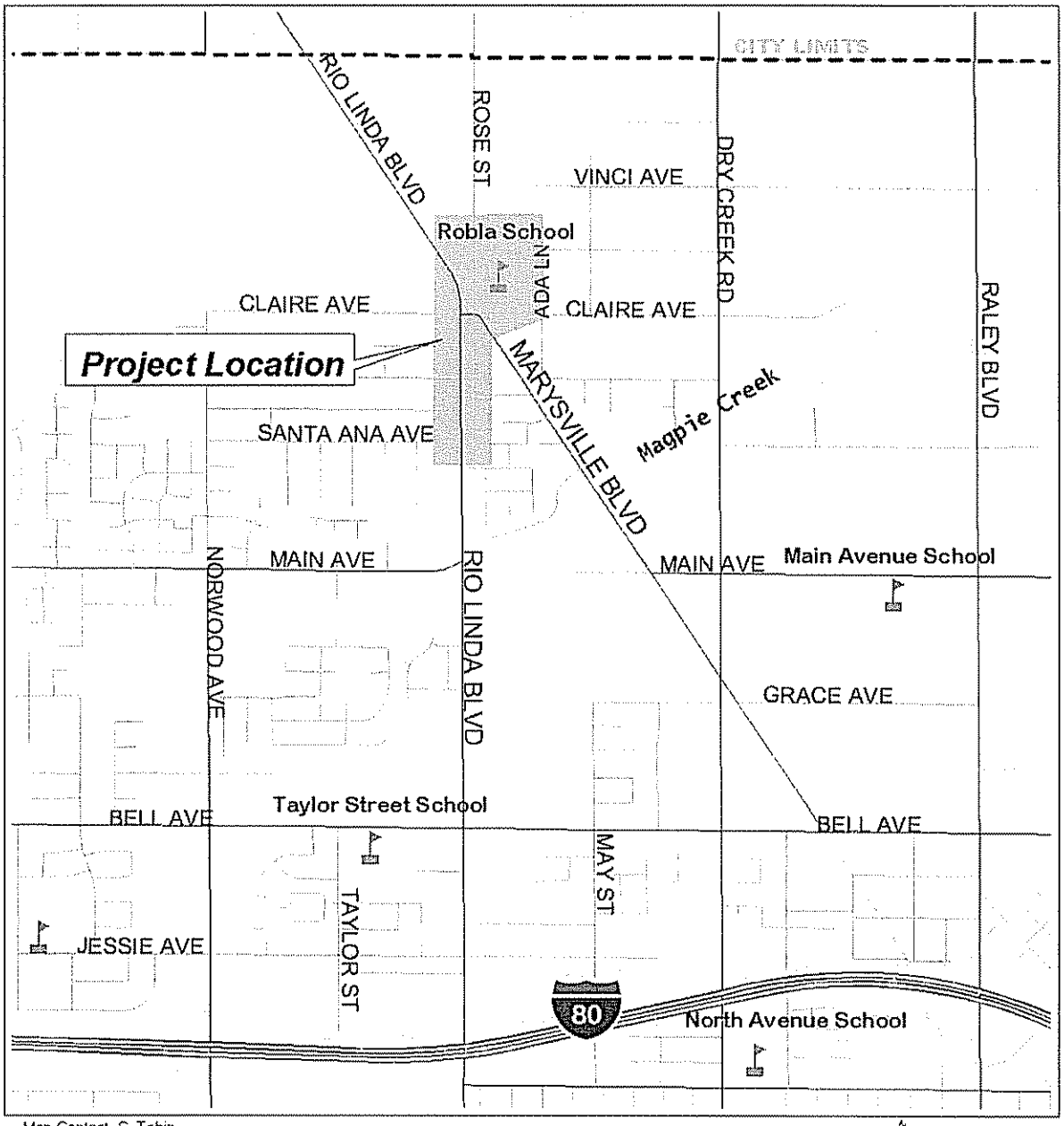
Exhibit A: Map of Robla Elementary School Improvements – 1 page

EXHIBIT A

Location Map for

ROBLA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS



Map Contact: S. Tobin
November, 2006

1000 0 1000 2000 Feet

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Department of TRANSPORTATION City of Sacramento