



**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

CITY HALL

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**CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT**

Meeting: August 15, 2017

Subject

Report on School Walk Audits

Recommended Action

Receive Staff Report on School Walk Audits

Discussion

In October, 2016, Cupertino's Safe Routes 2 School (SR2S) Program received funding from Santa Clara Public Health Department in the form of a Partnerships to Improve Community Health (PICH) Grant for the 2016/17 Fiscal Year. The PICH grant offers funds to cities in the South Bay Region to help with projects focused on improving community health and wellness. Our SR2S program applied for and received \$15,000 specifically intended to help cover the cost of performing walk audits at every Cupertino public school in the 2016/17 school year. Cupertino SR2S met this goal, in partnership with the schools and Alta Planning + Design, and was able to pay for four of these audits in full using PICH grant funds.

Safe Routes 2 School applied this grant funding towards walk audits because walk audits are among the most powerful tools in Safe Routes to School toolbox. A walk audit is a professional study done at a school during pick-up or drop-off time that observes traffic patterns and the behaviors of drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians using community volunteers and engineering staff and then makes recommendations to improve traffic flow and enhance safety around the school. These recommendations may include minor improvements such as the painting of red curb, larger capital improvements such as installation of curb ramps, changes to the pattern of student drop-off or pick-up operations, improvements on school property, programmatic recommendations such as education or enforcement, and more. Cupertino has audited and received reports for all 14 public schools and plans to use the recommendations contained within the reports to help guide maintenance, capital improvements, and programmatic programs over the next several years. City staff will also continue our partnership with school district staff and draw upon this relationship to encourage the Districts to implement the recommendations that are outside of the City's jurisdiction

## Sustainability Impact

Implementing the recommendations contained in the walk audit reports will result in an increase in walking and bicycling to school, and reduce vehicle congestion and emissions, thereby contributing positively towards sustainability.

## Fiscal Impact

Minor improvements contained within the walk audit reports can be absorbed within the existing Operation and Maintenance operating budget. Larger capital improvements will need to be funded through the City's Capital Improvement Program, either as stand-alone projects or included within larger existing programs such as the annual concrete ramp program, or with grant funding. Programmatic recommendations such as education will be incorporated into the City's SR2S program. Improvements within school property will be the responsibility of the school districts and there will be no fiscal impact to the City.

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Prepared by: David Stillman, Transportation Manager

Reviewed by: Timm Borden, Director of Public Works

Approved for Submission by: David Brandt, City Manager

Attachments:

A – Walk Audit Reports