



**TO:** Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager  
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**COPY:** Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee  
Mark Lauzier, Assistant City Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Safe Routes to School  
**DATE:** August 9, 2017

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**SUMMARY:**

On August 9, 2017, Public Works and Puyallup Watershed Initiative staff will present the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Implementation Plan to the Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee.

**BACKGROUND:**

SRTS is a federal program established by Congress in 2005, with a focus on creating a healthier, safer student population that walks and bikes through the Five Es: Engineering, Education, Encouragement, Enforcement, and Evaluation. The City has included a Sixth E: Equity. The goals are to reduce the number of traffic collisions involving youths and empower independence through walking and bicycling. The City has worked over many years to improve roadway design and infrastructure around schools, but has lacked adequate funding to address the infrastructure needs of all school sites including education and encouragement.

The core team developing the SRTS Implementation Plan included the City, Tacoma School District, and the Puyallup Watershed Initiative. The team brought community partners together to identify and understand the gaps for students walking and bicycling to school, strategically develop a sustainable and ongoing SRTS Program for walkers and bicyclers, identify dedicated and sustainable funding, and leverage grant opportunities. The main components of the SRTS Implementation Plan include visions, goals and actions.

**ISSUE:**

Between 2010 and 2014, there were 202 youths age 18 and under involved in collisions in Tacoma while walking or bicycling. Of those collisions, 118 were between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. during weekdays when students may be traveling to and from school. While the City has been successful in installing and maintaining 238 designated school crosswalks and 53 school zones with flashing beacons, receiving three SRTS grants, conducting emphasis patrols at least twice a school year for each school, and funding two school improvements for the 2017-2018 biennium, funding for infrastructure improvements is lacking and the remaining components of a successful SRTS program are nonexistent. As more students walk and bike to school, their safety and access can be improved with an effective SRTS program. Completing the SRTS Implementation Plan is the first step toward achieving this goal.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

This is an informational only presentation.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This is an informational only presentation.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This is an informational only presentation.