



TO: Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Kurtis D. Kingsolver, P.E., Public Works Director/City Engineer *KS*
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COPY: Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee
Tadd Wille, Assistant City Manager
PRESENTER: Carrie Wilhelme, Safe Routes to School Coordinator; Jennifer Kammerzell,
Senior Engineer, Public Works
SUBJECT: Safe Routes to School Action Plan Update
DATE: November 14, 2018

PRESENTATION TYPE:
Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:

Public Works Department staff will present an overview of the City's Safe Routes to School Action Plan including progress reporting and performance measures to the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee.

BACKGROUND:

Safe Routes to School (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 SRTS Action Plan was completed August 2017, in partnership with Tacoma Public Schools, Puyallup Watershed Initiative, and community partners 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. The City has been successful in installing and maintaining designated school crosswalks and school zones with flashing beacons, receiving three SRTS grants, conducting emphasis patrols at least twice a school year for each school, funding two school improvements for the 2017-2018 biennium, and including funding in the City's 2019-2020 Biennium Budget for two additional school improvements. However, 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 implementation of the SRTS Action Plan.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is an information briefing only. There are no alternatives presented.

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FISCAL IMPACT:

This is an information briefing only. There is no fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information briefing only. There is no recommendation.