



## Legislation Text

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### Agenda Information Sheet

**DEPARTMENT:** Transportation

**CM/ ACM:** Bryan Langley

**Date:** March 21, 2017

#### **SUBJECT**

Consider approval of a resolution authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, as Denton's authorized representative, to commit to fund, if selected, the applications for Active Transportation and Safe Routes to School projects through the North Central Texas Council of Governments; confirming intent to pay twenty percent of the total project cost (estimated at \$500,000 for all three projects); and providing an effective date.

#### **BACKGROUND**

In December 2016, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) opened a Call for Projects under the Transportation Alternatives - Set Aside (TA-Set Aside) program. This program is funded through the current federal transportation funding bill, FAST Act: Fixing America's Surface Transportation. NCTCOG has \$23.4 million to award to the North Central Texas region. The Call for Projects has two categories - Active Transportation, which is customary bike and pedestrian infrastructure; and Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS), which is infrastructure tied to making walking and biking to schools safer. This is a reimbursement program, with local sponsors being reimbursed 80% (local agency must fund at least 20%). Applications were due Friday, February 24 at 5 p.m.

Staff identified candidate projects that would meet the most scoring criteria, which includes points for regional connectivity, mobility, safety, equity, implementation of a local plan, local network connectivity, and project readiness, among others. For Active Transportation, staff recommends the Sycamore-Welch Bike/Ped Connection, which provides a more direct connection from the Downtown Denton Transit Center to the University of North Texas. It will also link to existing bike infrastructure on Hickory Street, Mulberry Street, and Eagle Drive. Staff is proposing a sidepath on Sycamore, and a road diet of Welch. Additionally, the project will coordinate with traffic signal work planned for the intersection of Carroll Blvd and Sycamore.

For SRTS, staff consulted the existing City of Denton Safe Routes to School Plan. A key scoring factor is improving access to schools with a high percentage of students classified as economically disadvantaged (per the Texas Education Agency school report cards); Ginnings Elementary and Lee Elementary are ranked third and fourth, respectively, out of the twenty elementary schools in Denton for number of economically disadvantaged students. Additionally, these schools have sidewalk projects already identified by staff with cost estimates and funding allocated, which will provide for the 20% match. The proposed SRTS projects include sidewalks on Stuart Road, Audra Lane, and Mulkey Lane, in addition to added crosswalks at intersections.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends adoption of the proposed resolution.

### **ESTIMATED SCHEDULE OF PROJECT**

Applications require a Letter of Commitment from the nominating entity to fund the project. A formal resolution from City Council is required by April 21, 2017. Review of projects by NCTCOG will occur between March and April. Project selections are anticipated in early summer 2017 and agreements finalized by end of Calendar Year. Construction must be completed in three years.

### **PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW (Council, Boards, Commissions)**

City Council adopted the Update to the Pedestrian and Bicycle Linkage Component of the Denton Mobility Plan on February 21, 2017

Mobility Committee received a staff update at the February 2017 meeting.

### **FISCAL INFORMATION**

The estimated cost for all three projects is \$2,500,000. If all three projects were selected, the City would pay 20% of the estimated project cost, or approximately \$500,000. The funding match for the Safe Routes to School projects will come from the 2014 Sidewalk Bond program. The funding match for the Active Transportation project will come from two sources - the Bike Fund (\$200,000 yearly allocation) and Traffic funds already allocated for a new traffic signal at Carroll Blvd and Sycamore.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN RELATIONSHIP**

The City of Denton's Strategic Plan is an action-oriented road map that will help the City achieve its vision. The foundation for the plan is the five long-term Key Focus Areas (KFA): Organizational Excellence; Public Infrastructure; Economic Development; Safe, Livable, and Family-Friendly Community; and Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship. While individual items may support multiple KFAs, this specific City Council agenda item contributes most directly to the following KFA and goal:

**Related Key Focus Area:** Sustainable & Environmental Stewardship  
**Related Goal:** 5.5 Provide alternative modes of transportation

### **EXHIBITS**

Exhibit 1 - Resolution

Respectfully submitted:  
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