



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Public Works

Date: April 29, 2014

To: Honorable Kevin Reich, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee

Subject: **Safe Routes Program Update**

Recommendation: Receive and file

Previous Directives: May 1, 2007 - School Pedestrian Safety Program Update, Receive and File

Department Information:

Prepared by: Forrest Hardy, Associate Transportation Planner

Approved by: _____

Steven A. Kotke, P.E., Director of Public Works

Presenters in Committee: Forrest Hardy, Associate Transportation Planner

Supporting Information

The Safe Routes Program aims to increase healthy habits of walking and biking in youth and seniors. The program's goal is to improve our city's transportation system for its most vulnerable users. It has developed from the School Pedestrian Safety Program within the Public Works Traffic Division. This program is expanding its efforts to seniors with the hiring of a Safe Routes for Youth & Seniors Planner in December 2013. This new effort includes collaboration with the Minneapolis Health Department.

The school-focused portion of the program is expected to have its biggest year to date, with a variety of projects scheduled for construction and implementation in 2014. This includes two federally funded infrastructure projects in North Minneapolis, and a federally funded School Route map that will be released citywide this month. Other projects include pedestrian crossing improvements at key locations. In general, factors influencing the selection of these project locations include:

- Student density within a walkable distance to school
- Location on the School Route Map
- Programming efforts encouraging student walking/biking at location
- Crash analysis and speed study
- Automobile traffic volumes
- On-site analysis obtained in periodic school safety reviews
- Communication with school staff, neighborhood organizations, and MPS Safe Routes staff

- Geographic equity within the city in relation to student density, distributed over a multi-year period

These factors and others are analyzed to ensure the Safe Routes program funding is appropriately allocated and has the greatest impact.

Attachments

A: Map of 2014 Safe Routes Projects

B: Layout of Improvements at Lucy Laney School

C: Draft Safe Routes Map - Front

D: Draft Safe Routes Map - Back