



REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL ACTION

MEETING DATE: JANUARY 24, 2012

TITLE: ACCEPT A FEDERAL SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL GRANT FOR IMPLEMENTATION IN FY2012-13

Brian Fisk

Director of Community Services

Sean Joyce

City Manager

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Accept a federal Safe Routes to School Program grant to fund a Safe Routes to School Bicycle/Walking Safety Education and Walking program to be budgeted over the next three fiscal years.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City was recently notified of a federal Safe Routes to School Program grant award in the amount of \$500,000 over three years to implement an expanded Bicycle/Walking Safety Education and Walking Program starting in FY2012-13. The grant funds will support Community Services and Public Safety staffing, incentives, educational materials and equipment to conduct walking and biking safety education workshops, community events and safety enforcement measures.

ANALYSIS

The City applied for a federal Safe Routes to School Program grant to support an expanded Bicycle/Walking Safety Education and Walking Program with the goal of promoting walking/biking to school and reducing child pedestrian and bicycle related injuries in Irvine. One hundred thirty-nine project applications were awarded from 332 applications received statewide.

The \$500,000 federal grant will be disbursed as a reimbursement to the City as the programs are implemented over the three years. The programs will serve approximately 26,000 children over a three-year period through interactive educational presentations, community bike rodeo events, walking/bicycle street skills classes, and expansion of the City's Walk to School Program. Funding will enable expansion of the City's current Walk to School Program from 7 to 14 schools over the three year funding of the program.

Grant funds will be used to focus on increased safety for children and youth through educational workshops, community events and safety enforcement measures.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The City Council may choose not to accept grant funds for this project. However, since the grant is for a specific purpose, funds may not be used for any other purpose and would, therefore, need to be returned to grantor.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no General Fund impact since the grant will be accepted as special funds. The City will receive \$500,000 for the Safe Routes to School Bicycle/Walking Safety Education and Walking Program.

REPORT PREPARED BY Corinne Schneider-Jones, Community Services Manager