

# Memorandum

## City of Lawrence

### Public Works Department

TO: David Cronin, P.E., City Engineer  
CC: Chuck Soules, P.E., Public Works Director  
Mark Thiel, Assistant Public Works Director  
FROM: Nick Voss, P.E., Project Engineer  
DATE: October 29, 2015  
RE: Safe Routes to School TA Grant Application

#### **Background**

In 2014 the Kansas Department of Transportation accepted the City of Lawrence's Phase 1 Safe Routes to School grant application. With this grant, city staff is working with the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department and the Lawrence School District to look at the six "E's" of safe routes; Education, Encouragement, Enforcement, Engineering, Equity, and Evaluation.

On September 1, 2015, the Kansas Department of Transportation issued a call for Transportation Alternative Program projects. Included in this call are the Safe Routes phase two applications which allow for up to eighty percent (80%) funding for the construction of safe routes related infrastructure up to \$200,000.

City of Lawrence, Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department, and School District staff worked with individual schools to create routes to each elementary and middle school. A Safe Routes public meeting was held in January 2015 to discuss and make adjustments to the routes locations. The working group, along with school district staff, developed a priority system for improvements based on a scoring system. The schools of Liberty Memorial Central Middle School and Woodlawn Elementary scored enough points on this rubric to qualify as a tier one school for the 2015 TA program.

Parent surveys were collected from each elementary and middle school in 2014 and 2015. From these surveys the two largest concerns from parents are the safety of intersections and sections of roadways with missing sidewalk. This grant application is proposing to fill in some of the gaps in sidewalks along the route and to add crosswalk beacons to the existing school crossings without crossing guards.

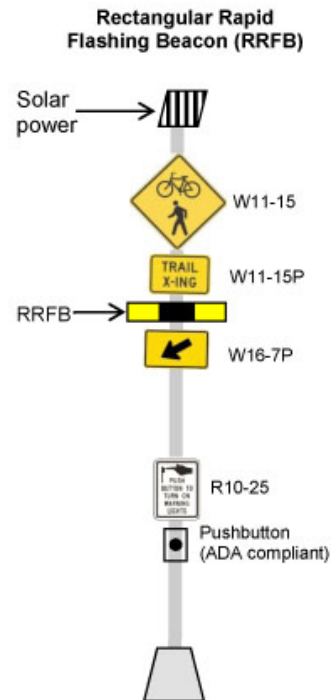
#### **Project Description**

Sections of sidewalk are proposed to be added along the routes of the two schools. The new sections of sidewalk will help build upon the education and encouragement that these schools are currently engaged in.

Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons are proposed to be added to school crossings without a crossing guard present. LED lights on the school crossing signs flash when push activated increasing the yield rates of vehicles at crosswalks from around twenty

percent (20%) to around eighty percent (80%). Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons have been used successfully by other communities in the area including Olathe, Topeka, and Prairie Village.

Ten crossings are proposed to be added at a cost of \$140,000 and the sidewalk is proposed to be added at a cost of \$100,000 for a total project cost of \$240,000.



### **Project Funding**

Total Project Cost:	\$240,000
KDOT TA Grant Share:	\$200,000
City Share:	\$40,000

This project would be designed in-house with engineering staff.

### **Action**

Direct staff to submit a Transportation Alternatives application to the Kansas Department of Transportation for Safe Routes to School, Phase 2, and assign a ranking of the TA projects to be submitted to the Kansas Department of Transportation.

Adopt [Resolution No. 7145](#) to fund and maintain the project.