



CITY OF HARRISONBURG  
**PUBLIC  
WORKS**

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TO: Ande Banks, City Manager  
FROM: Thomas Hartman, PE, Director of Public Works  
DATE: September 26, 2023  
RE: Resolution for VDOT Transportation Alternative Program Grant – Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Coordinator

**Summary:**

The Public Works Department is requesting City Council to consider adopting a Resolution for the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Coordinator, which Public Works will submit a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant application for funds to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

**Background:**

The TAP program is a reimbursement program administered by VDOT that may be used for projects that meet certain criteria for enhancing surface transportation for non-motorized modes of travel. The program funds up to 80% of the project and requires a 20% minimum match by the locality.

The application requests funds for a new full-time Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Coordinator for the City of Harrisonburg, serving all 10 public schools in the city beginning late 2024. The SRTS Coordinator would be a Public Works employee in the Planning division and also work closely with Harrisonburg City Public Schools staff and teachers, along with other stakeholders, to encourage active transportation by students and safe walking and biking to school. This would re-start and expand a role that existed in the city until 2022 - it was part-time and run by Sentara Community Health. The program has gone dormant without an SRTS Coordinator. The program would include using funds to support bicycle skills education and for various activities that encourage walking and biking to school.

The total estimated project cost is \$150,000 over 2 years, with a required City match of \$30,000.

**Key Issues:**

N/A

**Environmental Impact:**

N/A

**Fiscal Impact:**

If the City is successful with this TAP grant, Public Works will request matching funds in the FY2025 budget.

**Prior Actions:**

None

**Alternatives:**

N/A

**Community Engagement:**

Public Works staff have engaged stakeholders including Harrisonburg City Public Schools administrators and staff as well as others who currently or previously assisted with SRTS efforts. The current presence of students walking to school, and some efforts to create walking school buses at different schools, indicate support for efforts to re-start the SRTS program.

**Recommendation:**

City staff recommends that City Council adopt the attached Resolution.

**Attachments:**

1. Resolution
2. Presentation

**Review:**