



**HARRISONBURG | VA**  
**FRIENDLY BY NATURE**



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December 9, 2025, City Council Meeting

**Title**

Safe Routes to School Sidewalk Project (Keister and Waterman Elementary Schools)

**Summary**

City Council will hear an update on the Safe Routes to School Sidewalk Project and hold a Public Hearing to gather comments from Citizens concerning the project.

**Recommendation**

No action is required for this item.

**Fiscal Impact**

This project is funded through a VDOT Transportation Alternatives Program grant, which is a cost share grant where VDOT provides 80% of the project funds and the City provides 20% of the project funds. The City funds have been allocated with previous budget requests, and no additional City funds are requested at this time.

**Context & Analysis**

The Public Works Department applied for and received a VDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant in September of 2023 to construct sidewalks at Keister Elementary School and Waterman Elementary School. The new sidewalks will close existing gaps in sidewalks at both schools.

At Keister Elementary School the new sidewalk will be located along Central Avenue and provide connectivity for students traveling to and from school. At Waterman Elementary School the new sidewalk will be located along Gay Street to provide connections from Chicago Avenue to the school and along First St, to provide connections for the adjacent neighborhood to the school.

Following notification of award from VDOT, Public Works commenced design work and is currently at the 60% design stage. The next phase, involving the acquisition of right of way and easements, is scheduled to begin in early 2026.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document has been completed, and no adverse effects have been identified. A copy of the NEPA documentation is included with this item.

It is important to note that the TAP grant for this project is federally funded, necessitating the holding of a Public Hearing before any right of way or easements associated with the improvement project can be acquired. The project will require obtaining right of way and easements from one (1) property owner, along First St, as well as Harrisonburg City Public Schools.

**Options**

1. N/A

**Attachments**

1. Presentation
2. 60% Design Plans
3. NEPA Document