



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 – SRTS Sidewalks at Multiple Schools

Summary:

The Public Works Department is requesting City Council to consider adopting a Resolution for the SRTS Sidewalks at Multiple Schools Project, 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 project is a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) infrastructure project to construct three sidewalk segments to fill gaps between existing sidewalks and improve safe pedestrian access to two different schools: Waterman Elementary School and Keister Elementary School. One sidewalk segment is on Gay Street at Waterman Elementary School where sidewalk would be constructed to fill a gap in the sidewalks along Gay Street and to create a safe and direct sidewalk and crosswalk to the school building. The sidewalk currently ends at the parking lot with no safe route provided to walk through/across the parking lot. The second sidewalk segment is on 1st Street, between Lee Avenue and Chicago Avenue, leading directly to a crosswalk to Waterman Elementary School. Students currently walk in the road for this one block from the sidewalk on Lee Avenue. The third sidewalk segment is on Central Avenue at Keister Elementary School where there is a gap in the sidewalk along Central Avenue. While this sidewalk does not lead students to the school building, it would ensure that students and other people walking along Central Avenue have safe and continuous pedestrian infrastructure. In total, approximately 850 linear feet of 5' wide sidewalk would be constructed.

The total estimated project cost is approximately \$500,000, with a required City match of \$100,000.

Key Issues:

N/A

Environmental Impact:

This project will follow the National Environmental Policy Act in order to determine and mitigate any potential environmental impacts.

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:

As the project design progresses Public Works will host a Design Public Meeting, which will allow the public to provide feedback on the project.

Recommendation:

City staff recommends that City Council adopt the attached Resolution.

Attachments:

1. Resolution
2. Presentation

Review: