Title

VDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant Resolution of Support

Summary

Consideration of a VDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant Resolution of Support for the Safe Routes to School Coordinator.

Recommendation

Public Works recommends that the City Council approve the Resolution of Support.

Fiscal Impact

The VDOT TAP grant requires a 20% match from the City. The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Coordinator is considered a Non Infrastructure (NI) grant request. VDOT recently modified the participation amounts it will fund for NI grants. This modification reduces the eligible amounts allowed to be requested, as well as limiting the City to only four (4) more years of funding. The result is increased City contributions over the next four (4) years, with no additional funding being available for this program after that point. For years 1 and 2 the City funding request would be $78,000 and for years 3 and 4 the funding request would be $114,000.

Context & Analysis

In 2021 the Safe Routes to School Coordinator funding program was changed, which resulted in the position and program ending within the City, due to Sentara no longer being eligible to request the funding. In 2024 the City submitted for and received a TAP grant to restart the Safe Routes to School Program by funding the Coordinator position.

Over the past year the SRTS Coordinator has reestablished connections with Harrisonburg City Public Schools, completed Safe Routes to School instruction as various City schools, performed bike maintenance on bikes currently in use by the schools, purchased 20 new bikes for Rocktown High School, and restarted the "Bike/Walk/Roll" to school day in May, with over 200+ students participating.

Options
1. Approve the Resolution of Support
2. Do not approve the Resolution of Support, which will require Public Works to investigate alternative means of funding the Safe Routes to School Coordinator position and program.

Attachments
1. Presentation
2. Resolution of Support