

DECEMBER 11, 2012

12-606

RESOLUTION

(CARRIED 6-0 LOST _____ LAID OVER _____ WITHDRAWN _____)

PURPOSE: SUPPORT THE OSHKOSH SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

INITIATED BY: TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS the City of Oshkosh supports policies and programs that focus on health and wellness and healthier community environments; and

WHEREAS the health and safety of children is of highest concern to the citizens of the City of Oshkosh; and

WHEREAS walking and biking can help enhance the health and overall physical activity of children, improve air quality and the environment, and reduce traffic congestion and speed in and around school zones; and

WHEREAS Safe Routes to School is a national and international movement to create safe, convenient, and fun opportunities for children to walk and bike to school; and

WHEREAS Safe Routes to School efforts help remove barriers to walking and biking to school through improvement of infrastructure and facilities and the creation of education, encouragement, engineering, enforcement, and evaluation programs; and

WHEREAS having safer routes to and from schools can decrease pedestrian and bicycling related injuries, not just for students, but for the entire community; and

WHEREAS it is fitting that the City of Oshkosh recognize the importance of making walking and biking to school a safe activity

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Oshkosh will participate in and support the Safe Routes to School initiative in order to gain the benefits mentioned above and strengthen the quality of life for Oshkosh students, families, and neighborhoods.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Common Council
FROM: Christopher Strong, P.E., Director of Transportation
DATE: December 6, 2012
RE: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT THE OSHKOSH SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Background

The Oshkosh Safe Routes to School Task Force is comprised of representatives from the Oshkosh Police Department, the City of Oshkosh Department of Transportation, the Oshkosh Area School District, the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, student parents and community members. The task force began in 2006 as a group of concerned individuals which came together after a student was struck and injured by a vehicle. The task force has met every one or two months since its inception, and has served as a coordination point for efforts designed to increase the number of children walking or biking to school, through a multi-pronged approach of encouragement, engineering, education, enforcement and evaluation.

Some of the efforts the task force has led and/or supported include:

- Completion of a local Safe Routes to School plan
- Bike Rodeos
- National Bike to School Day
- International Walk to School Day
- Bicycle and pedestrian safety audits at Oshkosh schools
- Speed Watch Program

In 2010, the task force was successful in securing a \$102,635 Federal grant (with no local match requirement) that funds a variety of infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects. The task force is building on this successful grant to continue to attract and focus community resources toward supporting bicycle and pedestrian mobility to and from schools.

Analysis

The task force's efforts complement the work of the City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, and are consistent with public health goals of reducing obesity and encouraging

healthy lifestyles.

The attached resolution certifies the Common Council's support of the local Safe Routes to School effort. While City staff already participate in the task force and supporting activities, this resolution can be helpful in developing partnerships and leveraging resources to build on the task force's successful work to date.

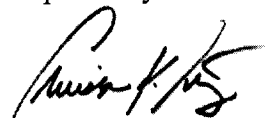
Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact involved.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of this resolution in support of the Oshkosh Safe Routes to School program.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher Strong, P.E.
Director of Transportation

Approved:



Mark A. Rohloff
City Manager