

# **Lompoc City Council Agenda Item**

**City Council Meeting Date: July 5, 2011**

**TO: Laurel M. Barcelona, City Administrator**

**FROM: Alex Ubaldo, E.I.T., Civil Engineering Associate II  
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**SUBJECT: APPROVE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN THE CITY OF LOMPOC AND THE LOMPOC VALLEY COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE ORGANIZATION (LVCHO) FOR A FEDERAL SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL APPLICATION, CYCLE 3**

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the City Council take the following actions:

1. Approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishing a partnership between the City of Lompoc and the Lompoc Valley Community Healthcare Organization (LVCHO) for the submittal of a non-infrastructure grant application to the Federal Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program, Cycle 3, administered by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).
2. Direct the City Administrator to execute the MOU, and direct staff to submit the grant application.

## **BACKGROUND:**

In August 2005, the Federal Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program was authorized through Section 1404 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). The purpose of the program is to 1) enable and encourage students in kindergarten through eighth grade (K-8), including students with disabilities, to safely walk and bicycle to school, 2) make walking and bicycling to school a more appealing mode choice, and 3) facilitate the planning, design, and implementation of projects that will improve safety, environment, and overall quality of life.

Any local or regional agency is eligible to apply for Federal SRTS funds under two categories: infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects. Infrastructure projects are engineering projects or capital improvements that will substantially improve safety and the ability of students to walk and bicycle to school such as the construction of sidewalks, curb ramps, pedestrian trails and bicycle lanes. Non-infrastructure projects are education/encouragement/enforcement activities that are intended to change community behavior, attitudes, and social norms to make it safer for children to walk and bike to school.

Non-profit organizations are also eligible to apply for funding, but must serve as "project sponsors" (as defined by Caltrans); and they are required to partner with a City/County or

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Regional Transportation Planning Agency, that must serve as the responsible agency. A Memorandum of Understanding must be established between the two entities, which details their roles and responsibilities.

***DISCUSSION:***

In May 2011, the Director of LVCHO met with City Staff to convey LVCHO'S desire to submit a non-infrastructure project grant application to the Federal SRTS Program during the current call for projects. LVCHO requested to partner with the City, asking the City to serve as the responsible agency for this non-infrastructure grant. LVCHO prepared an MOU and worked with City staff to modify it to meet the City's needs. The revised MOU is attached for the Council's review, comment, and approval.

The purpose of LVCHO'S request for Federal SRTS funding is to implement a 4-year Lompoc SRTS Program to promote safe routes for walking and bicycling to school. The program will include education, encouragement, enforcement and evaluation activities to promote walking and biking to school in several ways. Program activities will engage parents, students, community members, school and city personnel, community based business and civic organizations, local healthcare providers, elected leaders and policymakers to adopt, sponsor, and participate in and sustain the Lompoc SRTS Program. Some of the activities will include "Walk n' Roll" to school encouragement events as part of the International Walk to School and Bike to Work & School Months, conducting SRTS pedestrian and bicycle education and trainings at target schools involving parents and the community, and increasing traffic enforcement in school areas.

The requested SRTS funding amount of \$402,769 will pay for staff time, equipment, contractual services, and supplies and materials to implement the Lompoc SRTS Program.

In order to reduce the administrative workload on City Staff if the project application is awarded, Staff recommends the City hire a consultant to provide project management services on behalf of the City. The cost incurred to have a consultant manage this project is already included in the \$402,769 request for funding and therefore will have no fiscal impact to the City. Additionally, the Federal SRTS Program is a 100% reimbursable program and requires no local match.

The City's Engineering Division also plans to submit a second project application for this Federal SRTS grant cycle. The City's infrastructure grant application proposes to construct sidewalks and curb ramps where they are currently missing in various locations near schools throughout the City. The City's infrastructure grant application is separate from the non-infrastructure application submittal with LVCHO, and these two applications are evaluated by Caltrans in separate categories so they do not compete against one another.

The Engineering Division has received Safe Routes to School grant awards in the past, including an award of \$378,780 through the Federal SRTS Program, Cycle 2, in 2008. This year, City staff and LVCHO are optimistic in considering this opportunity to apply for both an infrastructure grant to provide the needed walking routes, and a non-infrastructure grant

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to educate and encourage the community toward this healthy commuting choice.

The SRTS application is due July 15, 2011.

***Alex Ubaldo, E.I.T.,  
Civil Engineering Associate II***

***Attachment:*** [Memorandum of Understanding](#)

***APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR:***

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***Larry A. Bean, P.E.  
Public Works Director***

***APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL:***

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***Laurel M. Barcelona  
City Administrator***