



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

### File Number:

**POSTING LANGUAGE:** Ordinance approving the submission of a grant application and acceptance of funds, if awarded, from the Texas Department of Transportation - Transportation Alternative grant program in the amount of \$800,000. This planning grant will support the Safe Routes to School-San Antonio Program (SRTS) at Loma Park Elementary, Coker Elementary, and Mark Twain Dual Language Academy.[John Peterek, Assistant City Manager; Catherine Hernandez, Director, Transportation Department]

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**Agenda Item Number:** {{item.number}}

**Agenda Date:** June 26, 2025

**In Control:** City Council A Session

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**DEPARTMENT:** Transportation Department

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Catherine Hernandez

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

### **SUBJECT:**

Safe Routes to School – Transportation Alternatives Grant Project Sponsor Resolution

### **SUMMARY:**

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a national initiative that aims to make walking and biking to school safer and more accessible for children. Launched with federal funding in 2005 and later integrated into the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) in 2012, SRTS promotes health, safety, and environmental benefits by encouraging active transportation.

Backed by over \$1 billion in federal support through State Departments of Transportation (DOTs), SRTS combines infrastructure improvements, education, and community engagement. These efforts reduce traffic congestion near schools, cut emissions, and boost physical activity among students. With school trips accounting for 10–14% of morning car traffic, SRTS programs are critical to improving student safety and community well-being.

The City of San Antonio updated the Vision Zero Action Plan in September 2024 with the City Council adoption of the FY 2025 Budget. The Vision Zero Action Plan is a strategy to reach zero fatalities by focusing on a Safe System Approach through actions that create Safer Streets, Safer People, Safer Speeds, Safer Vehicles, and Post-Crash Response and Analysis. SRTS helps to achieve Safer Streets through its infrastructure improvements to make streets safer for walking and biking to school as well as Safer People through its education and engagement by encouraging safe, responsible behavior by people who use our roads.

To build on these outcomes, the Grant, if awarded, would fund the SRTS-SA pilot program. The pilot will launch at Loma Park Elementary, Coker Elementary, and Mark Twain Dual Language Academy, and include a comprehensive safety analysis to identify potential roadway and policy improvements around each campus. Public engagement activities will be conducted at all three schools to gather community input and build support. As part of the program, the City will also develop a citywide implementation plan of the Safe Routes to School Program, a methodology for prioritizing school sites for inclusion in the program, and a curriculum of age-appropriate lesson plans for all grade levels. The pilot will establish a scalable framework for rolling out the Safe Routes to School program to more than 300 schools across the San Antonio area.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

This ordinance authorizes the application and acceptance of funds from the Texas Department of Transportation - Transportation Alternative grant program, if awarded, in the amount of \$800,000. The grant program requires a 20% cash match in the amount of \$160,000. Funding is available from the General and Advanced Transportation Funds. However, TxDOT provides transportation development credits in certain economically disadvantaged counties. Bexar County is on a list of eligible counties allowed to use transportation development credits instead of providing a match. If development credits are obtained, the City of San Antonio would not need to utilize funding from the General and Advanced Transportation Funds.