

STAFF REPORT
City of Lancaster

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MVB

Date: September 11, 2012

To: Mayor Parris and City Council Members

From: Robert C. Neal, Director of Public Works

Subject: **Miller Elementary School - Safe Routes to School Grant Funds**

Recommendation:

Approve the plan for use of Safe Routes to School (SR2S) funding, which includes:

Increase estimated revenues in Account No. 349-3307-200 by \$450,000.00 and appropriate \$450,000.00 in SR2S funds to Capital Improvement Budget Account No. 349-15ST032-924.

Fiscal Impact:

With these actions, sufficient funds are available in Capital Improvement Budget Account Nos. 349-15ST032-924 and 209-15ST032-924.

Background:

The Safe Routes to School (SR2S) program is intended to increase the number of children who walk or bicycle to school by funding projects that remove the barriers that currently prevent them from doing so. These barriers may include the lack of infrastructure, unsafe infrastructure, and the lack of programs that promote walking and bicycling.

On December 20, 2011, Caltrans announced a “Call for Projects” for Cycle 10 of the state-legislated SR2S program, in which \$48.5 million in funds was available. On June 29, 2012, Caltrans announced that 139 project applications were selected out of the 333 applications submitted. The City of Lancaster was awarded for both of the project applications that were submitted, one for improvements at John and Jacquelyn Miller Elementary School, and the other for improvements at Gifford C. Cole Middle School and Tierra Bonita Elementary School.

\$450,000.00 will be used for improvements at John and Jacquelyn Miller Elementary School. These improvements will include the construction of a new traffic signal, new sidewalk and pedestrian paths, new bike lanes, streetlights, ADA compliant pedestrian curb ramps, and pedestrian bulb-outs at street intersections to reduce crossing distances.

John and Jacquelyn Miller Elementary School was selected based on the need for safety improvements for students walking or bicycling to and from school. The Lancaster School District and the individual school were consulted in the development of the project applications. In addition to the proposed infrastructure improvements, SR2S funds will also be used to help the schools develop programs that promote walking and bicycling through education/encouragement programs aimed at the children, parents, and the community.

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