

STAFF REPORT
City of Lancaster

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MVB

Date: June 11, 2013

To: Mayor R. Rex Parris and City Council Members

From: Brian S. Ludicke, Planning Director

Subject: **Authorization for the HEAL Grant and Appropriation of Grant Funds from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health**

Recommendation:

Adopt **Resolution No. 13-17**, authorizing a staff person to serve as the initiative coordinator for this project, and approve the appropriation of \$475,000 in grant funds from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health for the HEAL grant initiative to Revenue Account No. 399-3303-200 and Expense Account No. 399-4520-770 to fund a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Master Plan.

Fiscal Impact:

The City has been awarded a total of \$475,000, which will be reimbursed up to \$100,000 for the first year commencing upon the signed agreement, and \$125,000 for the next three consecutive years. As part of the grant requirement, we will be designating \$20,000 each year to Antelope Valley Partners for Health (AVPH) as our community based partner for this initiative.

Background:

The vision for the City of Lancaster is to be a livable city organized on four “pillars” that support this goal: Safety, Health, Economic Vitality, and Sustainability. The City, therefore, actively seeks to plan and implement projects that adhere to these principles. The City of Lancaster and AVPH were awarded the County of Los Angeles RENEW grant in 2010 to prepare a master bike/trails plan. This was a two-year project involving many community outreach activities and workshops. The Master Plan of Trails and Bikeways was adopted by City Council in January 2012, and this Plan initiated a re-evaluation of the overall physical form of growth within the City, and has acted as a catalyst for examination of revised development codes and street design.

In the fall of 2012, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health solicited proposals to establish and implement strategies that would create environments where it is convenient, safe, and easy for community members to eat healthier, and participate in physical activity every day. The Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) initiatives were made possible by an award the County received from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Community Transformation Grants initiative.

On May 14, 2013, the City of Lancaster and AVPH received the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's HEAL grant, which will fund the development and implementation of the SRTS Master Plan. The goal is to have prepared a comprehensive Safe Routes to School Plan that includes mini-plans for each of the public schools located within the City of Lancaster boundaries by September 29, 2016. Following the "5 E's" (Engineering, Education, Encouragement, Enforcement, and Evaluation) approach, this SRTS Master Plan will include overarching city-level recommendations for programmatic strategies and prioritization of engineering improvements. Incorporated into the SRTS Master Plan will be the individual school-based plans with detailed engineering improvements and programs for each school. The SRTS Master Plan will focus on programmatic strategies, and will provide a methodology for prioritizing engineering improvements.

The City of Lancaster SRTS Master Plan will have several goals: 1) helping the City develop engineering and programmatic recommendations for safer routes to school, 2) assisting school implementation of programs to encourage walking and biking, and 3) working with the community to facilitate safe routes to school. The development of the SRTS Master Plan will involve working with a wide variety of stakeholders including: school superintendents, principals, teachers, parents, children, law enforcement, City staff, community partners, and other community stakeholders. These stakeholders will evaluate the existing conditions, identify issues and opportunities, and recommend improvements along routes to school. The SRTS Master Plan will also include education, encouragement, enforcement, and evaluation components to actively promote walking and bicycling to school.

Funds are received on a reimbursement basis; staff recommends that the City Council appropriate the grant funds and authorize staff to expend the funds according to the grant agreement requirements.

EW:BSL/jr

Attachment:

Resolution No. 13-17