

**STAFF REPORT**  
**City of Lancaster**

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Date: November 12, 2014

To: Mayor Parris and City Council Members

From: Robert C. Neal, Director of Public Works

Subject: **Active Transportation Program Funds - Safe Routes to School Master Plan**

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**Recommendation:**

Approve the appropriation of \$322,000.00 from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) reimbursement program for the Active Transportation Program (ATP) to Revenue Account No. 399-3301-302 and corresponding Expense Account Nos. 399-4782-101 for Salary Disbursement of \$88,000.00, 399-4782-202 for Local and Regional Expenses of \$6,500.00, and 399-4782-301 for Professional Services to fund a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Master Plan.

**Fiscal Impact:**

The City has been awarded a total of \$322,000.00 which will be reimbursed for Fiscal Year 2014-2015. As part of the grant requirement, \$44,000.00 will be designated to Antelope Valley Partners for Health (AVPH) as our community based partner for this initiative.

**Background:**

In the fall of 2012, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (County) 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 received the Department of Public Health's HEAL grant to fund the development and implementation of the SRTS Master Plan. The goal was to prepare a comprehensive SRTS Plan that includes mini-plans for each of the public schools located within the City of Lancaster boundaries by September 29, 2016. In April 2014, the federal budget for the Centers for Disease Control cut this funding, and the SRTS Master Plan

ended on September 29, 2014. To date, we have completed draft plans for 19 of the 30 public schools in the City of Lancaster.

The City remained committed to completion of this plan, and to maintain the positive momentum it had generated. The City applied for funding through the State's ATP to complete the overall city-wide SRTS Master Plan. The ATP is a new program that consolidated existing federal and state transportation programs, including the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA), and State SRTS, into a single program with a focus to make California a national leader in active transportation.

On March 21, 2014, Caltrans announced a "Call for Projects" for Cycle 1 of the ATP program, in which \$360 million in funds was available. Caltrans announced that 199 project applications were selected from the 771 applications submitted. The City of Lancaster was awarded two of the four project applications that were submitted, one for completion of the planning efforts for the SRTS Master Plan, and the other for improvements on 5<sup>th</sup> Street East, from Avenue H-8 to Avenue J-4.

This funding will allow the City to complete the remaining draft mini-plans for eleven (11) schools and finalize the comprehensive SRTS Master Plan.

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