



**DATE:** July 22, 2021

**TO:** Transportation Advisory Commission

**FROM:** Laura Rubio-Cornejo, Director of Transportation

**SUBJECT:** **Department of Transportation/Pasadena Unified School District Safe Routes to School Education and Encouragement Program Update**

**BACKGROUND:**

The City of Pasadena and the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) have a history of collaboration on outreach and education activities. City staff representing the Departments of Transportation (DOT), Parks, Recreation and Community Services, Health, Library, and Police, and Fire collaborate with PUSD on annual events such as Walk to School Day and regularly coordinate student outreach efforts through PUSD's monthly Wellness Council meeting.

DOT specific collaboration include assistance with updating PUSD's Safe Routes to School program, regular maintenance of school adjacent roadway infrastructure, and regular evaluations of drop-off and pick-up traffic.

**CURRENT SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM:**

The City of Pasadena and the PUSD were awarded \$780,000 to conduct a Safe Routes to School Education and Encouragement Program at nine PUSD schools for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years. This grant was made possible by California Senate Bill 1, also known as the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017, through the California Division of Local Assistance's Active Transportation Program. A consultant team consisting of Day One, ActiveSGV, and Alta Planning was selected in February 2019 to produce and implement a Safe Routes to School program.

Programming started in school year 2019-2020 and consisted of presentations to students and parents, data collection of existing walking routes, walking school bus and bike train development, in-class education lessons, and participation in events such as walk to school day.

In-person programming activities were put on hold in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Socially distanced adjustments to programming included producing videos and hosting online meetings for PUSD's distance learning curriculum. Encouragement activities continued via online social media and socially distanced bike repair services. As the

majority of PUSD students and program participants continued with distance learning through entirety of the 2020-2021 school year, programming was pared back as PUSD prioritized health services and pandemic education programming.

City staff, PUSD, and the consultant team worked with Caltrans in spring 2021 to extend the program through the fall 2021 semester of the 2021-2022 school year. This adjustment provides a hybrid approach that maintains some distance learning resources while preparing for in-person activities for the fall 2021 semester.

**NEXT STEPS:**

The pared-down distance learning programming of the 2020-2021 school year allowed the consultant and PUSD to preserve enough resources to provide in-person programming as originally intended for the coming fall semester. The consultant team and PUSD staff are currently coordinating how the program will adjust to back-to-school plans.

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