

## AGENDA



Thursday, July 23, 2009

**Health and Human Services  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 43**

---

**Subject:** Authorize negotiation and execution of an Interlocal Agreement with MORNINGSIDE RESEARCH AND CONSULTING, INC. and TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY, to share evaluation data for the grant-funded Safe Routes to School Project for a seventeen-month term beginning on August 1, 2009.

**Fiscal Note:** A fiscal note is not required.

**For More Information:** Philip Huang M.D. M.P.H., Medical Director, 972-5855; Vanessa Metzger, Program Manager, 972-5465; Linda Terry, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023.

---

**BACKGROUND**

The purpose of the Safe Routes to School Project (SRTS) is to enable and encourage children in grades K-8, including those with disabilities, to walk and/or bicycle to school, thereby making healthy lifestyle changes from an early age. It is 100 percent grant-funded by Texas Department of Transportation. The City has a subcontract with Morningside Research and Consulting, Inc. (Morningside) to perform evaluation activities on various aspects of the SRTS Project. Specific activities conducted by Morningside that are pertinent to this agreement are self-report surveys among students on mode of transportation and administration and evaluation of parent attitudinal surveys.

The City's Health and Human Services Department (HHSD), Morningside, and Texas A&M University (TAMU) will execute the agreement to share evaluation data. Since 2007, TAMU has conducted extensive data collection and evaluation of parent attitudinal surveys among the SRTS Project's select schools and many other Austin Independent School District elementary schools.

All parties share common priorities and interests in the collection and analysis of data related to children and parents' attitudes and prevalence of walking and biking to school. Each party has unique competencies through which it addresses these needs. The City, Morningside Research and Consulting, Inc., and TAMU all recognize that operating collaboratively will enhance the ability of all involved parties to achieve some of their goals and targets while reducing duplicity.