

## AGENDA



Thursday, July 29, 2010

**Health and Human Services  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 34**

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**Subject:** Approve an ordinance authorizing acceptance of \$200,000 in grant funds from the TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, TRAFFIC OPERATIONS DIVISION, Austin, Texas, and amending the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Health and Human Services Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund of Ordinance No. 20090914-002 to appropriate \$200,000 for the continuation and expansion of the Safe Routes to School Program, and to add one full-time equivalent position.

**Amount and Source of Funding:** Funding is available from the Texas Department of Transportation, Traffic Operations Division, Austin, Texas. The grant period is August 1, 2010 through July 31, 2011. A City match of \$14,459 is required.

**Fiscal Note:** A fiscal note is attached.

**For More Information:** Philip Huang M.D., M.PH, Medical Director, 972-5408; Vanessa Metzger, Program Manager, 972-5465; Laura Polio, Interim Agenda Coordinator, 972-5010.

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The Texas Department of Transportation is allocating funds for the continuation and expansion of the current Safe Routes to School Program which enables and encourages 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.

Four full-time equivalent positions are required to continue and expand the program's initiatives into 4 new schools, Houston, Langford, Palm, and Widen Elementary. The positions are Program Coordinator (existing), Health Educator (existing), Grants Coordinator (new), and Administrative Senior (existing).

The required City match of \$14,459 is fulfilled through an existing General Fund Public Health Educator position.

The General Fund will not be required to contribute to this grant beyond the match or to the funding of these positions. When the grant funds expire, the Health and Human Services Department's need for the positions will be evaluated and the positions may be eliminated.

Related Departmental Goal: Prevent the spread of communicable disease and reduce the risk of health complications due to disease and unhealthy behaviors.

**Outputs/Outcomes**

Increase the percentage of children grades K-8 that walk or bicycle to school in sixteen targeted schools in Austin.

Continue a social marketing and media campaign designed to raise awareness of the importance of walking or bicycling to school and to change the habits of drivers in school zones.