

April 8, 2026

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

20260123

From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager

Subject: Emergency Ordinance – DOTE: Safe Routes to School Grant Application

Attached is an Emergency Ordinance captioned:

AUTHORIZING the City Manager to apply for a grant awarded by the Ohio Department of Transportation’s Safe Routes to School program of up to \$1,000,000 to provide resources for a pedestrian and bicycle project focused on providing students of local schools with safe routes to school.

Approval of this Emergency Ordinance authorizes the City Manager to apply for grant resources of up to \$1,000,000 awarded by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) through the Safe Routes to School grant program to provide resources for a pedestrian and bicycle project focused on providing students of local schools with safe routes to school.

There are grant funds available from the Ohio Department of Transportation through the Safe Routes to School grant program that would assist with funding for the construction of a planned roadway project to install bicycle infrastructure and create safety improvements along Court Street downtown, including creating a bicycle connection and a comprehensive bicycle network in downtown, Over-the-Rhine, and the West End, and improving the intersection of Central Avenue and West 9th Street for safer crossings for pedestrians. Various pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements near local schools will provide safe and secure routes for students.

The grant application deadline was March 6, 2026, and the City has already applied for the grant, but no grant funds will be accepted without approval by the City Council.

This grant does not require matching funds, and there are no new FTE/full time equivalents associated with the acceptance of these grant resources.

Providing students with pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements near local schools is in accordance with the “Connect” goal to “[d]evelop an efficient multi-modal transportation system that supports neighborhood livability” and strategy to “[p]lan, design, and implement a safe and sustainable transportation system” as described on pages 127-137 of Plan Cincinnati (2012).

The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to meet the schedule requirements for the next round of funding and legislation due to ODOT by the deadline of May 1, 2026.

The Administration recommends passage of this Emergency Ordinance.

cc: Andrew Dudas, Budget Director
Steve Webb, Finance Director

Attachments

