

December 13, 2021

**TO:** Members of the Budget and Finance Committee

**FROM:** Paula Boggs Muething, City Manager

**202103303**

**SUBJECT:** Roll Hill School Students Pedestrian Safety

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**REFERENCE DOCUMENT #202103043 (AMENDED)**

The Budget and Finance Committee referred for a report at its session on November 10, 2021, the following Motion:

WE MOVE for the City Administration to prepare a report on acquiring funding for an infrastructure project on Westwood Northern Blvd from Baltimore Ave to McHenry Ave, in order to increase the pedestrian safety of Roll Hill School students. Funding sources in the report should include but not be limited to the Ohio Department of Transportation's and the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments' Safe Routes to School programs. WE MOVE that Item 1 (202103043) be amended to also include a meeting of all relevant parties including but not limited to: Cincinnati Public Schools, Cincinnati Police Department, Department of Transportation and Engineering, and the relevant Community Councils.

The Department of Transportation and Engineering (DOTE) indicates that the scope of this project would include the construction of approximately 860 feet of new sidewalk along the northern side of Westwood Northern Boulevard between the Ravenswood Apartments and Baltimore Avenue. A cost estimate cannot be developed until preliminary design has been completed. There are several utility poles on this side of the street and grading may require the construction of small walls.

This project appears to be eligible for Safe Routes to School (SRST) funding. The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) SRTS grant applications are due March 4, 2022 for up to \$400,000 of funding; OKI (Ohio Kentucky Indiana) Regional Council of Governments SRTS grant applications are typically due annually in June for up to \$750,000 of funding with a 20% match requirement. Both of these programs are competitive so there is no guarantee of funding.

The City Council could allocate funds for this project as part of the FY 2023 Capital Budget Update process.

Additionally, as these are pedestrian safety related improvements, federal funds from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) may be available to allocate to this project. Final determination on the City's funding allocation and eligible uses is forthcoming from the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT).

A special meeting for this specific project proposal is not necessary. DOTE collaborates regularly with Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS) on pedestrian safety issues and Safe Routes to School grant applications.

cc: William "Billy" Weber, Assistant City Manager  
John S. Brazina, Director, Transportation and Engineering