

CITY OF YUBA CITY  
STAFF REPORT

**Date:** November 17, 2020

**To:** Honorable Mayor & Members of the City Council

**From:** Public Works Department

**Presented by:** Diana Langley, Interim City Manager

**Summary**

**Subject:** Safe Routes to School Plan (Adoption)

**Recommendation:** Adopt a Resolution adopting the Safe Routes to School Plan

**Fiscal Impact:** There is no direct cost associated with adopting the Safe Routes to School Plan

**Purpose:**

To adopt the Safe Routes to School Plan, created utilizing Sustainable Grant Program funding and guidelines, to establish priority pedestrian and bicycle safety projects in the vicinity of Yuba City area schools.

**Background:**

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Sustainable Communities Grant Program aims to encourage local and regional planning efforts that further state goals, such as increased pedestrian travel and bicycle safety. The Sustainable Communities Grant Program had \$29.5 million available statewide and is funded using Senate Bill 1, the Road Repair & Accountability Act of 2017.

The City of Yuba City was awarded its full requested grant amount of \$221,325 for the development of the Yuba City Safe Routes to School Plan (Plan) specifically covering the 15 schools in Yuba City Unified School District (YCUSD) listed below:

- Andros Karperos School
- April Lane Elementary School
- Barry Elementary School
- Bridge Street Elementary School
- Butte Vista Elementary School
- Central Gaither Elementary School
- Gray Avenue Middle School
- King Avenue Elementary School
- Lincoln Elementary School
- Lincrest Elementary School
- Park Avenue Elementary School
- River Valley High
- Riverbend Elementary School
- Tierra Buena School
- Yuba City High

On November 20, 2018, City Council awarded a Professional Services Contract to Alta Planning + Design (Alta) to develop the Plan.

## **Analysis:**

Yuba City Staff worked with Alta and Alta's subconsultant, WALK Sacramento, to conduct community outreach, document existing conditions and needs, and identify and recommend potential infrastructure improvements, routes for walking and bicycling, and educational programs for the 15 YCUSD schools.

The resulting Safe Routes to School Plan utilizes elements of existing policies and programs including the General Plan, 2011 Bicycle Transportation Plan, Bike to School Day, and Bike Yuba City. Based on these planning elements, the Plan recommends specific improvements for each school and includes a Recommended Walking and Bicycling Route map, designed to encourage walking and bicycling, and help families, students, and school staff choose the safest route to travel to and from school. A prioritization methodology was developed to identify the 20 highest-impact improvements across all schools by utilizing the following criteria: Safety, Population Served, Equity, Community Support, and Cost-Effectiveness. The Plan also provides the following tools to Parents, Schools, and Law Enforcement:

1. Parents can use this Plan to understand the conditions at their children's school and to become familiar with the ways the Safe Routes to School program can work to make walking and biking safer and easier
2. Schools can use this Plan to prioritize potential improvements identified on the District property and develop programs that educate and encourage students and parents to seek alternatives to driving to and from school.
3. Law Enforcement can use this Plan to better understand safety concerns and infrastructure deficiencies at or near the schools to plan for and prioritize enforcement activities and outreach.

Through comments from outreach efforts, staff has received interest in including private/charter schools in the Plan. Due to COVID-19 impacts, evaluating these schools has not been feasible. The Plan will be amended at a later date to include these schools.

Staff has already used the Plan to identify projects for Feather River Air Quality Management District Blue Sky Grant and Caltrans Highway Safety Improvement Program grant applications that have recently been submitted. Staff will continue to identify priority projects outlined in the Plan to apply to other grant programs.

Due to the large file size, the Plan is on file in the Public Works Department at City Hall and at [www.yubacity.net/publicworksplans](http://www.yubacity.net/publicworksplans) for review. The Plan will also be provided electronically to YCUSD for distribution to schools and parents.

## **Fiscal Impact:**

Funding for the creation of the Safe Routes to School Plan came from a \$221,325 Sustainable Communities Grant and a \$38,500 Local Match. All grant funds have been paid to the City and the grant has been closed out. There is no direct cost associated with adopting the Safe Routes to School Plan. The City will be able to leverage the Plan to competitively compete for grant funding for transportation infrastructure improvements such as those administered by the State.

## **Alternatives:**

Do not adopt the Safe Routes to School Plan. This may compromise future grant funding opportunities and reverse community outreach efforts.

**Recommendation:**

Adopt a Resolution adopting the Safe Routes to School Plan.

Attachments:

1. Resolution

Prepared by:

*/s/ Nick Menezes*

Nick Menezes  
Assistant Engineer

Reviewed by:

Department Head

Finance

City Attorney

Submitted by:

*/s/ Diana Langley*

Diana Langley  
Interim City Manager

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SM

SLC by email

# ATTACHMENT 1

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YUBA CITY  
ADOPTING THE YUBA CITY SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PLAN**

WHEREAS, the California Department of Transportation created the Sustainable Communities Grant Program (Program) to provide \$29.5 million in project funding for local and regional agencies and other eligible entities in the 2017-2018 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the City of Yuba City applied for \$221,325 in Program funding with a \$38,500 in local match for the development of the Yuba City Safe Routes to School Plan (Plan); and,

WHEREAS, the City of Yuba City contracted with Alta Planning + Design to develop the Plan; and,

WHEREAS, the Plan will promote physical activity and wellbeing of the community; and,

WHEREAS, the Plan will promote improved air quality; and,

WHEREAS, the Plan identifies improvements designed to increase the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists traveling to and from school; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Yuba City desires to adopt the Plan allowing the City to competitively compete for future grant funding opportunities.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Yuba City as follows:

1. The City Council finds the proposed action is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) per CEQA Guidelines Section 15378. The City Council further finds that even if it were a "project" for the purposes of CEQA, based on preliminary environmental assessment and pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), there is no possibility that this activity may have significant, adverse effect on the environment as the activity merely establishes a plan, does not award a contract for actual construction or other environmental change to occur, and subsequent discretionary projects resulting from this action will be assessed for CEQA. Therefore, this project is not subject to CEQA.
2. The City Council adopts the Yuba City Safe Routes to School Plan.

The foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly introduced, passed, and adopted by the City Council of the City of Yuba City at a regular meeting thereof held on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2020.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

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Shon Harris, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Ciara Wakefield, Deputy City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
COUNSEL FOR YUBA CITY

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Shannon L. Chaffin, City Attorney  
Aleshire & Wynder, LLP