



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, January 09, 2007

Council Session

Item G8

**#2007-7 - Approving Application for Safe Routes To School
Program (Safety Improvements near Walnut Middle School)**

Staff Contact: Steven P. Riehle, Public Works Director

Council Agenda Memo

From: Steve Riehle, Public Works Director

Council Meeting: January 9, 2007

Subject: Approve Safe Routes to Schools grant application

Item #'s: G-8

Presenter(s): Steve Riehle, Public Works Director

Background

The Nebraska Department of Roads instituted a new program in 2006 called Safe Routes to Schools to fund infrastructure (sidewalk and street crossing improvements, traffic diversion and bicycle facilities) and non-infrastructure projects (promotional materials, student bicycle and pedestrian safety education sessions). The projects must enable and encourage K-8 school children to safely walk and bike to school. A maximum of \$250,000 is available per project to communities, schools and local agencies.

Safe Routes funding is 100 percent funded by the federal government and requires no matching funds by local entities. The Safe Routes to School program focuses on promoting physical activity and improving health, making routes to school safe, and reducing traffic congestion around schools by encouraging children to walk and bike to school.

In December 2006, the City submitted Intent to Apply applications for three potential projects at three middle schools: Westridge, Barr, and Walnut. As a result, the City was invited to submit a draft application for a Walnut Middle School project. The draft application is the second step in a three-step process. If the draft is approved, the City will be invited to submit a final application to compete for funding.

Discussion

The City of Grand Island (Public Works and Community Development) is partnering with Grand Island Public Schools, Central District Health Department, and Tri-Cities Safe Kids on a project for Walnut Middle School. The Grand Island Police Department and School Resource Officers will play important roles in the success of the project when

complete. The draft application is due January 12, 2007. If the City is invited to submit a final application, it will be due on February 9, 2007 with selection taking place in March.

Grants are being considered in 2 categories, Infrastructure and Non-Infrastructure.

Infrastructure Grant Application

The infrastructure part of the project will shift the entrance to the school from Custer Avenue south to align with 15th Street and provide for installation of a traffic signal. The project will improve vehicular traffic and reduce numerous pedestrian safety concerns. The City is facilitating the infrastructure application.

Non-Infrastructure Grant Application

The non-infrastructure part of the project will include education, enforcement, and encouragement to complement infrastructure improvements. The Central District Health Department is facilitating the non-infrastructure application.

Alternatives

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

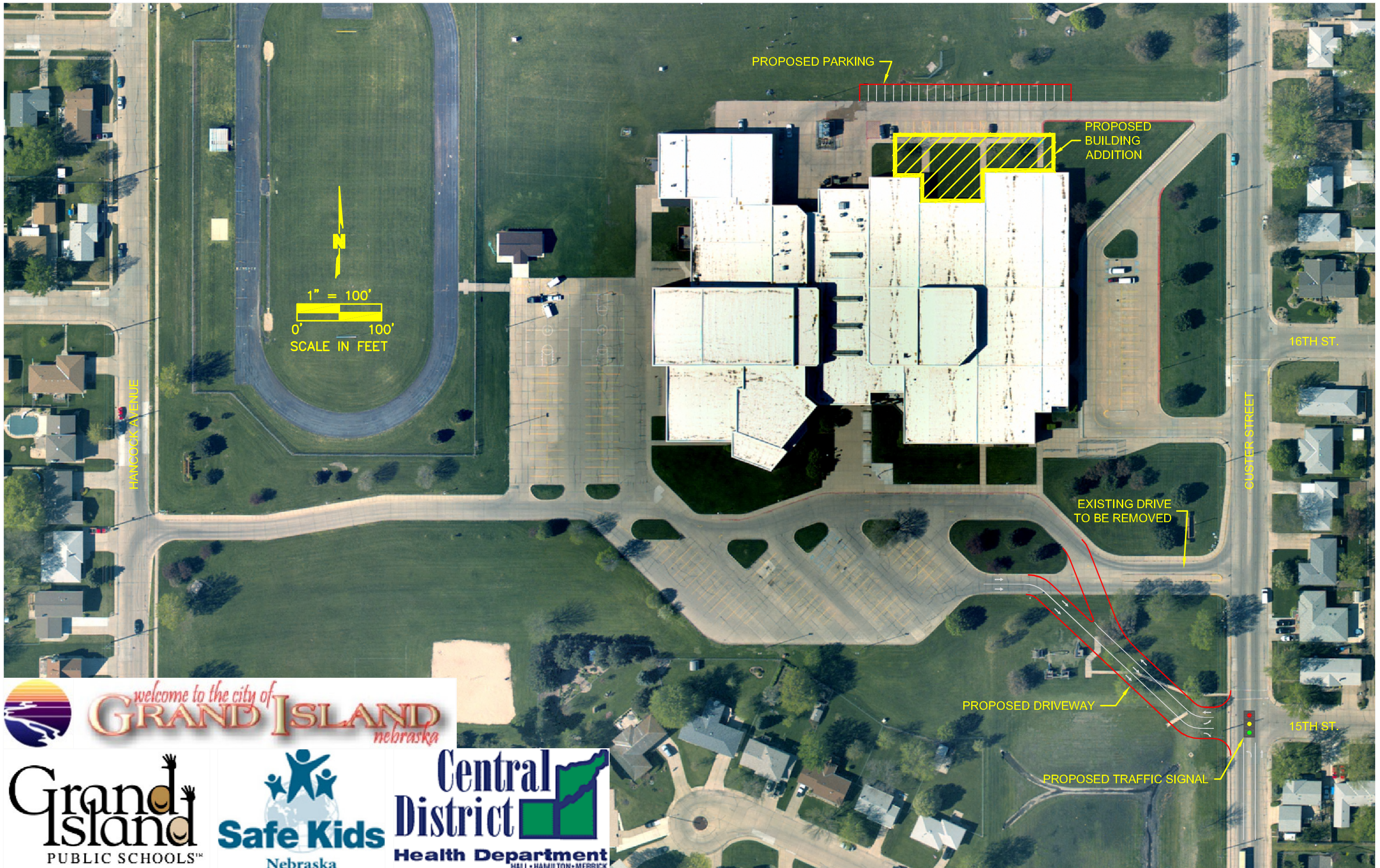
1. Approve the Safe Routes to Schools application and give approval for the Mayor to sign all related documents for the infrastructure project.
2. Refer the issue to a Committee.
3. Postpone the issue to a later date.
4. Take no action.

Recommendation

City Administration recommends that the Safe Routes to Schools grant application be approved and authorizes the Mayor to sign all related documents for the infrastructure project.

Sample Motion

Motion to approve submission of the proposed application and authorize the Mayor to sign all related documents for the infrastructure project.



RESOLUTION 2007-7

WHEREAS, In 2006 the Nebraska Department of Roads instituted the Safe Routes to Schools program to fund infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects to enable and encourage kindergarten through eighth grade children to safely walk and ride their bicycles to school; and

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Island submitted an Intent to Apply application for the Safe Routes to Schools grant and was invited to submit a draft application for a project at Walnut Middle School; and

WHEREAS, the Nebraska Department of Roads requires that a draft application for the grant be submitted by January 12, 2007. Should the City of Grand Island be invited to submit a final application, the final application is due on February 9, 2007, with selection being determined in March, 2007; and

WHEREAS, the Safe Routes to Schools program is 100% funded by the federal government and would require no matching funds from the City of Grand Island.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, that the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, is hereby authorized to apply for the Safe Routes to School Grant to fund an infrastructure project near Walnut Middle School.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to execute such grant application and other documentation on behalf of the City of Grand Island for such grant purposes.

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Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, January 9, 2007.

Margaret Hornady, Mayor

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

Approved as to Form	☐ _____
January 4, 2007	☐ City Attorney