



HISTORIC
FRANKLIN
TENNESSEE

ITEM #4
WRKS 02/28/2012

MEMORANDUM

February 21, 2012

TO: Board of Mayor and Aldermen

FROM: Eric Stuckey, City Administrator
Lisa Clayton, Director of Parks
Catherine Powers, Director of Planning and Sustainability
Kevin Lindsey, Parks Department Facilities Superintendent
Andrew Orr, Sustainability/Grants Coordinator
Katy Daugherty, Planning Intern

SUBJECT: Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) Safe Routes to School Grant Proposal

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BOMA) regarding a potential grant proposal to fund improvements to the Fieldstone Farms tunnels.

Background

The City of Franklin maintains the tunnels underneath Hillsboro Road and Fieldstone Parkway. The tunnels and the adjacent area have experienced severe flooding and reoccurring drainage problems, which has led to the erosion of mulch, dirt, rocks, and top soil into the pathway and ultimately into the water drains, which is degrading the performance of the water pumps (installed to eliminate flooding). The tunnels do not have lighting, resulting in safety concerns in and around the entrances.

The City seeks to use a Safe Routes to School Grant to add security features to the trail area and add energy efficient lighting to both tunnels. Drainage issues will be alleviated and stabilization of the large boulders that continue to pose a hazard to both people and infrastructure will be addressed.

The City has been in close communication with the Fieldstone Farms Homeowners' Association (HOA) Chair of both the Strategic Planning and Grounds Committees, and Hunter's Bend Elementary School, both of whom are supportive of the project. Hunter's Bend also plans to coordinate volunteer programs that encourage students to use the tunnels by walking and biking to and from school. Grant funding will be used to cover these and other expenses.

Financial Implications

There is no match requirement. The City is not outlaying any funds, but would be responsible for administration of the project, if awarded. The City is seeking approximately \$120,000 in Safe Routes to School funding.

Recommendation

Endorse the corresponding resolution to allow staff to proceed with the submittal of the Safe Routes to School Grant application which is due March 30, 2012.

RESOLUTION 2012-14

**A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE
TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL
GRANT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, Safe Routes to School is a competitive grant program that funds infrastructure improvements and programs to encourage students to walk and bike to school; and

WHEREAS, the City of Franklin maintains the Fieldstone Farms bicycle and pedestrian tunnels underneath Hillsboro Pike and Fieldstone Parkway; and

WHEREAS, the City of Franklin seeks to apply for a Safe Routes to School Grant in order to finance certain proposed improvements to the tunnels and also for school sponsored programs that encourage Hunter's Bend Elementary students to walk and bike to school; and

WHEREAS, the City of Franklin will be responsible for administration of this project if awarded; and

WHEREAS, the City will not outlay any funds for match and will be reimbursed for all project costs, if awarded; and

WHEREAS, Franklin residents are increasingly becoming aware of the health and quality of life benefits of safe walking trails.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE:

That Dr. Ken Moore, Mayor, is authorized to sign and submit an application for the Safe Routes to School Program to the Tennessee Department of Transportation that would fund certain improvements to the Fieldstone Farms tunnels and also fund school-sponsored programs that encourage Hunter's Bend Elementary students to walk and bike to school.

Approved this _____ day of _____, 20____

ATTEST:

CITY OF FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE

BY: _____

ERIC S. STUCKEY
City Administrator

BY: _____

KEN MOORE, MD
Mayor

Approved as to form by

Kristen L. Corn, Staff Attorney