



TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY

TOWN COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

To: Honorable Mayor and Town Council **Date:** July 14, 2015

From: Jennifer Heim, Special Projects Manager **Item No:** 10

Subject: RESOLUTION NUMBER 2015-26 AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS MASTER PLAN

T.M. Approval: _____ **Budgeted Item:** Yes No N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the Town Council adopt Resolution Number 2015-16, Authorizing the Town Manager to Execute an Agreement with the California Department of Transportation for the Town of Apple Valley Safe Routes to Schools Master Plan Project.

SUMMARY:

On October 31, 2014, the Town submitted the Safe Routes to Schools Master Plan project application, requesting \$199,350 in funding from the 2015-16 Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning program. On March 24, 2015, the Town received a notice of award. In the 2015-16 program cycle, Caltrans received 141 applications, with requests totaling \$41.1 million. This was a highly-competitive statewide program with only \$9.8 million to award. Only 51 cities were recommended for funding (36% success rate).

BACKGROUND:

Apple Valley has experienced explosive growth in the past 30 years, growing from a “sleepy” resort area in the 1960s to a bustling town. After incorporating in 1988, Apple Valley's population boomed, more than doubling between 1990 and 2000. Today, residents are feeling the growing pains of inadequate infrastructure to support the population of 70,924. Apple Valley Unified School District (AVUSD) encompasses a

sprawling area of 205 square miles and serves more than 13,500 students. Even though 65% percent of AVUSD students live within a mile of their school, only about 16% actually walk or ride a bike to school. At community meetings held in 2014, parents indicated the main reason their children do not walk or bike to school was due to safety concerns.

Most streets in Apple Valley, including school routes, do not have sidewalks, curbs, gutters or bicycle lane striping. A lack of sidewalks is the main barrier preventing students who live within the school “walking zone” from walking. As Apple Valley has grown, the former rural roads are now major streets and important school routes.

Due to the aforementioned conditions, the Town determined that an Apple Valley Safe Routes to Schools Master Plan is necessary to prioritize and address outdated infrastructure that presents significant barriers for students to safely walk or ride their bike to school.

The Safe Routes to Schools Master Plan project will result in a prioritized master plan for improving the highest risk school routes, enabling more students to walk or ride a bike to school. The planning process will consist of a comprehensive evaluation of conditions at 10 K-8 schools, risk analyses, community workshops, and developing a Safe Routes to Schools Coalition. The 10 K-8 schools include: Desert Knolls Elementary, Mariana Academy, Phoenix Academy, Rancho Verde Elementary, Rio Vista Elementary, Sandia Elementary, Sitting Bull Academy, Sycamore Rocks Elementary, Vanguard Prep and Yucca Loma Elementary. A qualified planning consultant will oversee the planning process in which the Town and School District will achieve a united vision for addressing the most serious risks and opportunities for improving school routes.

FISCAL IMPACT: If Resolution 2015-26 is adopted and agreement is executed, the Town of Apple Valley will receive \$199,350 in grant funding from the California Department of Transportation and will be required to provide matching funds in the amount of \$25,650. AVUSD has agreed to reimburse the Town for half of the matching funds (\$12,825).

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-26

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 2015-26 AUTHORIZING THE TOWN
MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE
TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS
MASTER PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Apple Valley is eligible to receive Federal and/or State funding for certain transportation planning related plans, through the California Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, a Fund Transfer Agreement is needed to be executed with the California Department of Transportation before such funds can be claimed through the Transportation Planning Grant Programs; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Apple Valley wishes to delegate authorization to execute these agreements and any amendments thereto.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Apple Valley, authorize the Town Manager or designee, to execute all Fund Transfer Agreements and any amendments thereto with the California Department of Transportation.

APPROVED and **ADOPTED** by the Town Council of the Town of Apple Valley this 14th day of July, 2015.

Larry Cusack, Mayor

ATTEST:

La Vonda M-Pearson, Town Clerk