



**CITY OF HAYWARD**  
**AGENDA REPORT**

AGENDA DATE 03/27/01  
AGENDA ITEM 2  
WORK SESSION ITEM \_\_\_\_\_

**TO:** Mayor and City Council  
**FROM:** Director of Public Works  
**SUBJECT:** Authorization for Submittal of Second Round on Safe Routes to Schools

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council approve the attached resolution authorizing staff to submit an application for the second round of the Safe Routes to Schools Program, and commit to providing the required 10 percent project match.

**BACKGROUND:**

On October 6, 1999, Governor Davis signed AB 1475 (Soto), which redirects approximately one-third of the annual Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) safety funds from railroad grade crossings (and other transportation programs) to a new program called "Safe Routes to Schools." The goal of AB 1475 is to demonstrate and evaluate the effectiveness of a "safe routes to schools" program. This new Act became effective January 1, 2000, and will remain in effect until January 1, 2002, unless a later-enacted statute deletes or extends the sunset date. SB 10, which would eliminate the sunset date, was recently introduced by Senator Soto. Approximately \$20 million statewide will be available in the second round. Applications for this cycle are due May 22, 2001.

**DISCUSSION:**

In the initial round, the City applied for three projects, none of which were approved. In the second round, the maximum grant funds that may be awarded to any project is \$450,000. Local jurisdictions will be required to provide at least a ten-percent match. Projects that address specific pedestrian and/or bicycle safety problems are eligible for funding. Such projects include new or upgraded traffic signals, pavement markings, new or improved bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and turning lanes.

After review of potential projects, as well as successful project applications from the previous round, staff recommends submittal of the two following projects, in priority order:

Construct improvements to the Huntwood-Schafer intersection - Estimated Cost: \$500,000

This project would install a traffic signal at Huntwood Avenue and Schafer Road and would install pedestrian railroad crossing gates, fencing to direct pedestrians to cross at the railroad crossing, and a sidewalk on the east side of Huntwood south of Schafer to provide better access

to the railroad crossing. It is estimated that the project would cost \$500,000, with \$450,000 from the Safe Routes to Schools program and a \$50,000 match from the City.

This project would provide safer access for school children crossing Huntwood Avenue to reach Tennyson High School. Pedestrians must now cross the Union Pacific Railroad tracks east of Huntwood to access the school. The crossing gates would help serve as an additional warning in the event of approaching trains.

Additional "cut-through" traffic in Hayward, as well as industrial and commercial development in both Hayward and Union City, adds to the problem on Huntwood Avenue. A signal at Huntwood and Schafer, currently ranked seventh on the City's Traffic signal Priority List (fourth unfunded priority signal) would allow for safer crossing of Huntwood Avenue to the high school. Since there is no sidewalk on the eastside of Huntwood, providing a sidewalk would further enhance safety by reducing potential pedestrian/automobile conflicts. The intersection meets Caltrans warrants for a traffic signal based on "School Area Traffic Signals." As an interim measure, all-way stop signs, which are warranted, have been installed.

#### Sidewalk improvements at various schools throughout the City - Estimated Cost - \$500,000

In reviewing successful applications throughout the state, staff has noted that many of these applications involved projects that were directed to address concerns at many different schools, as opposed to a single improvement affecting one school.

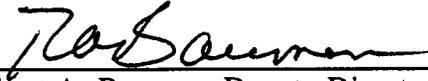
Using the City's street tree damage database, sidewalk conditions around 26 schools were analyzed. City staff also discussed sidewalk needs with school administrators. First priority for improvements was given to elementary schools. Sidewalk repair needs at 15 schools covering over 300 locations were identified. The specific schools are identified in Exhibit A. The estimated cost of these improvements is \$500,000. The Safe Routes to Schools grant would cover \$450,000 and the City would provide \$50,000 in matching funds.

As a result, children often need to walk in the street, putting them at increased risk for accidents. This project would address the deficiency of inadequate sidewalks and, hopefully, provide an opportunity for increased walking to school.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

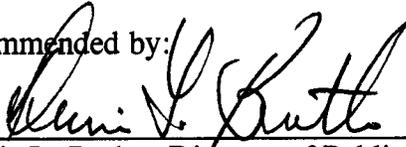
It is recommended that Council authorize staff to submit applications for the Huntwood/Schafer intersection improvement project and the miscellaneous sidewalks project, as City priorities 1 and 2 respectively, to the Safe Routes to Schools program, second round.

Prepared by:



Robert A. Bauman, Deputy Director of Public Works

Recommended by:



Dennis L. Butler, Director of Public Works

Approved by:



Jesús Armas, City Manager

Attachments

Exhibit A: List of Schools for Sidewalk Improvements

Exhibit B: School Location Map

## **LIST OF SCHOOLS FOR SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS**

Bidwell/Treeview Elementary

Burbank Elementary

Eden Gardens Elementary

Eldridge Elementary

Glassbrook Elementary

Harder Elementary

Highland Elementary

King Middle

Longwood Elementary

Muir Elementary

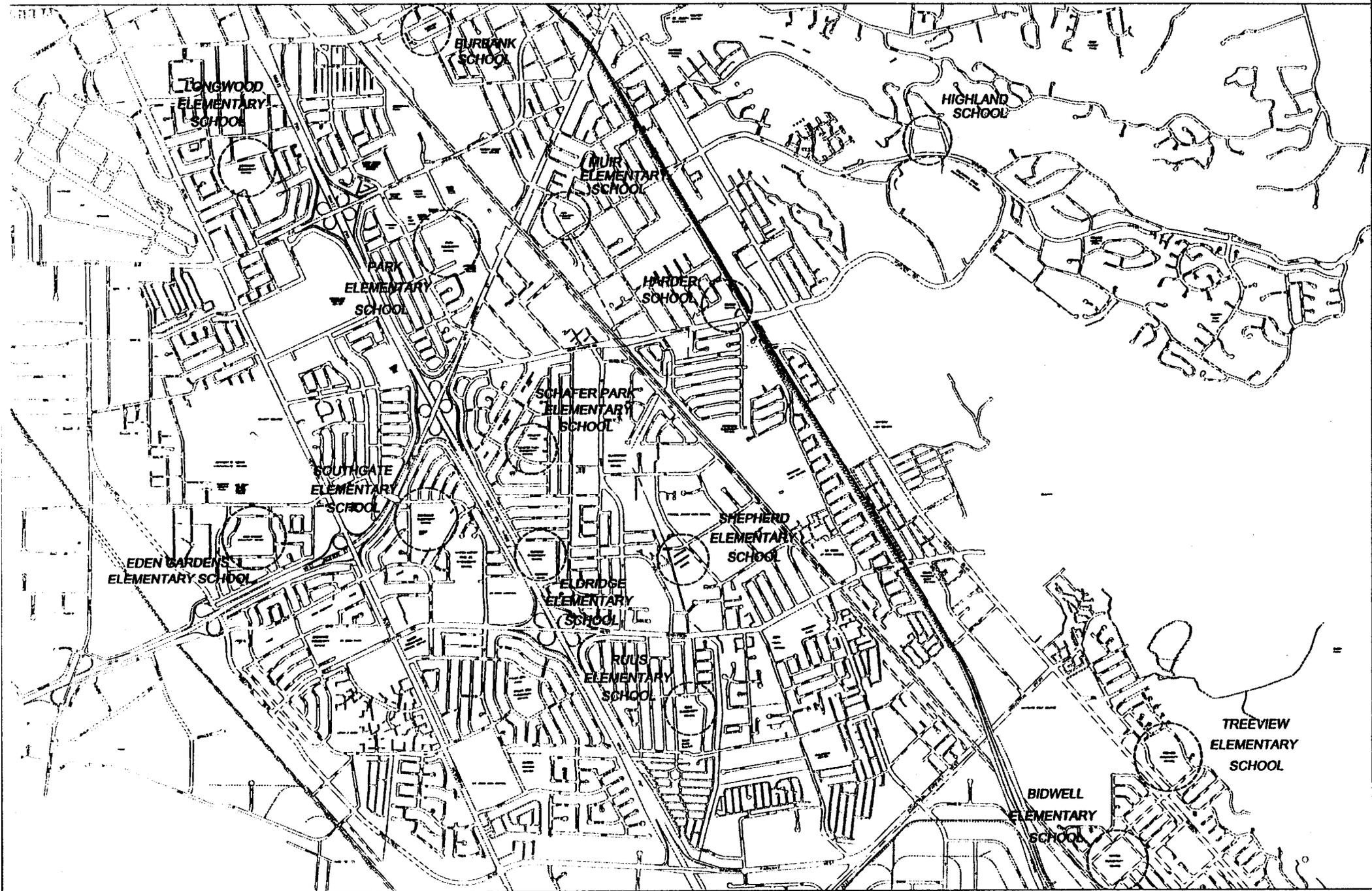
Park Elementary

Ruus Elementary

Schafer Park Elementary

Shepard Elementary

Southgate Elementary



**EXHIBIT B**  
**SCHOOL LOCATION MAP**

# DRAFT

HAYWARD CITY COUNCIL

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

Introduced by Council Member \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF GRANT  
FUND APPLICATIONS TO THE SAFE ROUTES TO  
SCHOOLS PROGRAM; COMMITTING TO PROVIDE THE  
REQUIRED TEN PERCENT PROJECT MATCHING FUNDS;  
AND AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE  
DOCUMENTS**

WHEREAS, on January 1, 2000, AB 1475 became effective and redirects Federal Highway Administration safety funds from railroad grade crossings to a new program called "Safe Routes to Schools"; and

WHEREAS, in the initial round last year, the City of Hayward applied for three projects, none of which were approved, and applications for a second round (due May 22, 2001) are now being accepted for projects that address specific pedestrian and/or bicycle safety programs; and

WHEREAS, approximately \$20 million statewide will be available in the second round and the maximum grant funds that may be awarded to any project is \$450,000 of which local jurisdictions will be required to provide at least a ten percent match; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends the City submit applications for two projects:

1. Improvements to the Huntwood Avenue-Schafer Road intersection for the installation of a traffic signal, pedestrian railroad crossing gates, fencing and a sidewalk to provide safer access for school children crossing Huntwood Avenue to Tennyson High School (at an estimated cost of \$500,000); and
2. Sidewalk improvements at various schools throughout the City to provide for sidewalk repair and adequate sidewalks to provide more students with the opportunity to walk to school (at an estimated cost of \$500,000).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Hayward hereby authorizes staff to submit applications to the second round of the Safe Routes to Schools Program for the Huntwood-Schafer intersection improvement project and for sidewalk improvements at various schools throughout the City.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Hayward commits to providing the required ten percent project matching funds if the grant applications are approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager, or his designee, is hereby authorized and empowered to execute in the name of the City of Hayward all necessary application documents for the purposes of securing grant funds and to implement and carry out the purposes specified in the grant applications, in a form to be approved by the City Attorney.

IN COUNCIL, HAYWARD, CALIFORNIA \_\_\_\_\_, 2001

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk of the City of Hayward

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney of the City of Hayward