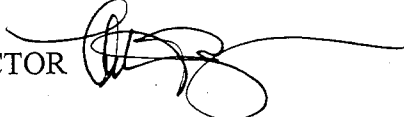




MEETING DATE: 2/02/04
ITEM NO. 9

COUNCIL/AGENCY AGENDA REPORT

DATE: JANUARY 27, 2004
TO: MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL/
CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
FROM: TOWN MANAGER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 
SUBJECT: ADOPT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TOWN MANAGER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDS CONCERNING SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS AND APPROVAL OF SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS GRANT FUND APPLICATION REPORT

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt resolution authorizing Town Manager/Executive Director to apply for grant funds concerning safe routes to schools and approval of Safe Routes to Schools Grant fund application report.

BACKGROUND:

The Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S) Grant was established by the State Legislature to protect children on their way to school. Federal funds were originally authorized for fiscal years 1999-00 and 2000-01, and have since been extended an additional three years, through 2004. Each year, competitive grants are to be submitted to the State Department of Transportation for review and approval or denial. The Town of Los Gatos successfully applied for these funds during the fourth funding cycle. Funding was awarded November 2003 to install sidewalks at four locations near elementary and middle schools, planned for the summer of 2004. This is the final year available to apply for these improvement funds.

This year, staff have expanded their efforts to propose a multi-jurisdictional project to request funding to install electronic speed radar boards on arterial roadways near four schools serving Los Gatos elementary and middle schools' children, (as well as children in neighboring communities who attend schools that border our town), and to purchase two solar powered speed radar boards to locate on a rotating basis along various school routes. This project is supported by the Los Gatos Union, San Jose Unified and Campbell Union School Districts, and the Cities of Monte Sereno, Saratoga,

PREPARED BY: 
JOHN E. CURTIS
Director of Parks and Public Works

Reviewed by: PSS Assistant Town Manager GK Attorney _____ Clerk SC Finance
_____ Community Development Revised: 1/27/04 2:50 pm

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MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL/

CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

SUBJECT: ADOPT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TOWN MANAGER TO APPLY FOR
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Campbell and San Jose and the County of Santa Clara. Additionally, many town neighborhoods are indicating their support of this proposal.

DISCUSSION:

Staff determined four (4) locations on arterial streets where traffic speeds are normally 35MPH, but during school zone times should be 25MPH. In particular, Blossom Hill Road (serving Blossom Hill Elementary School), Los Gatos Boulevard (serving Louise Van Meter Elementary and Fisher Middle Schools), Los Gatos Almaden Road (serving Union Middle School), and on Pollard Road (serving Rolling Hills Middle School). As indicated, these schools serve Los Gatos school children and, for schools located near Los Gatos borders, also serve children from the neighboring communities of Campbell, San Jose, Monte Sereno, Saratoga or County pockets. Additional streets located along school routes were identified as difficult to cross including Union Avenue, Carlton Avenue, Cherry Blossom, Shannon Road, and Fisher Avenues where speed limits are 25MPH or 35MPH and vehicle speeds are above the posted speed limit.

Locations were determined based upon input from the community. Staff have received numerous calls during the past few years from both parents and residents requesting staff to find solutions to slow traffic in these particular areas. Ongoing discussions with the school district concur with these concerns. Staff collected traffic data on these roadways indicating vehicle speeds are five miles above the posted speed limit (be it 25MPH, 30MPH or 35MPH) during school drop-off and pick-up times. Reducing vehicle speeds will increase pedestrian safety.

Staff propose to purchase a total of eight permanent and two solar powered/ moveable speed radar boards in or near school zones to slow traffic during school pick-up and drop-off times. In particular, to install two permanent speed radar boards in each of the four locations (listed above) and place the two moveable solar powered radar boards on a rotating basis in other school route areas. It is believed these measures will greatly improve pedestrian safety and reduce vehicle speeds.

Currently, there are two locations in Los Gatos with electronic speed radar boards near schools, located on Winchester near Daves Avenue Elementary and on Blossom Hill Road near Fisher Middle School. Feedback on these devices has indicated drivers do slow down. This proposal is to duplicate this success near other schools with similar roadway situations. Additionally, Caltrans has recently indicated they will install a speed radar board near the Massol/Highway 9 crosswalk approaching town this calendar year, as speeds are well over the 35MPH posted speed limit. That crossing is used by Daves Avenue Elementary School children.

Staff have received letters of support from residents in neighborhoods near these schools, many of whom have children attending local schools. These letters will be included in the grant application

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MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL/

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package to Caltrans. The support obtained from residents indicates how strongly these safety improvements are desired by many members of our community.

The Caltrans grant review committee views favorably multi-jurisdictional projects. This grant application represents a supportive effort between the Town of Los Gatos, Cities of Monte Sereno, Campbell, Saratoga and San Jose, and the Los Gatos Union, Campbell Union and Union School Districts to increase safety near our public schools.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends that Council/Redevelopment Agency adopt the Safe Routes to Schools Resolution and authorize the match funding to support the SR2S projects.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

Is a project as defined under CEQA but is Categorically Exempt (Sections 15301(c), 15303(e), and 15304(b) of the State CEQA Guidelines). A Notice of Exemption will not be filed.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The SR2S grant is available for projects up to \$500,000, with a required 10% match. It is anticipated this project proposal will not exceed \$250,000 for materials and installation expenditures. The Town's funding match requirement, at 10% of the project total cost, is anticipated to be \$25,000. This local match could be GFAR funds or Traffic Calming funds. The Safe Routes to Schools Grant Proposal, if approved by Caltrans, would be a project for the 2004-05 fiscal year, and could be installed within weeks of award notification. Ongoing costs are anticipated to be minimal: monthly electricity costs of approximately \$600 per year and annual maintenance of the solar powered speed radar boards at \$200 per year or less are anticipated.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended to authorize staff to apply for the SR2S grant for sidewalk and crosswalk safety projects of an estimated project cost not to exceed \$500,000 with a local match of up to \$50,000.

Attachments:

1. Resolution authorizing to apply for grant funds
2. Location Map

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MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL/

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REPORT

JANUARY 27, 2004

Distribution:

Mary Ann Parks, Superintendent, Los Gatos Union School District, 15766 Poppy Lane,
Los Gatos, CA 95030

John Thomas - Caltrans - District 4, Office of Traffic, P. O. Box 23660,
Oakland, CA 94623-0660

Sadegh Sadeghi, Senior Traffic Engineer, Santa Clara County Traffic Engineering and Operations,
1505 Schallenberger Road, San Jose, California 95131-2434

Ross Taft, Pedestrian Coordinator, City of San Jose, Department of Transportation, 4 N. Second
Street, Suite 1000, San Jose California, 95113

Robert Kass, Public Works Director, City of Campbell, 70 N. First Street, Campbell, California,
95008

RESOLUTION

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
OF THE TOWN OF LOS GATOS
AUTHORIZING TOWN MANAGER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO APPLY FOR GRANT
FUNDS CONCERNING SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, the Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S) Program was established to protect children as they make their way to and from school; and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Transportation awards funds for competitive local projects aimed at increasing pedestrian safety; and

WHEREAS, California State Senate Bill 10 (SB 10, 2001), extended the SR2S program for an additional three years; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Los Gatos is committed to improve and maintain the school walking routes are safe for all school children;

RESOLVED, that the Town of Los Gatos declares it is eligible to request funding for SR2S grant to improve the school walking routes; and

RESOLVED, that the Town of Los Gatos will continue to collaborate with local schools and agencies to provide safe routes to schools.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a meeting of the Town Council/Redevelopment Agency of the Town of Los Gatos, California, held on the day of , 2004 by the following vote:

COUNCIL/AGENCY MEMBERS:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

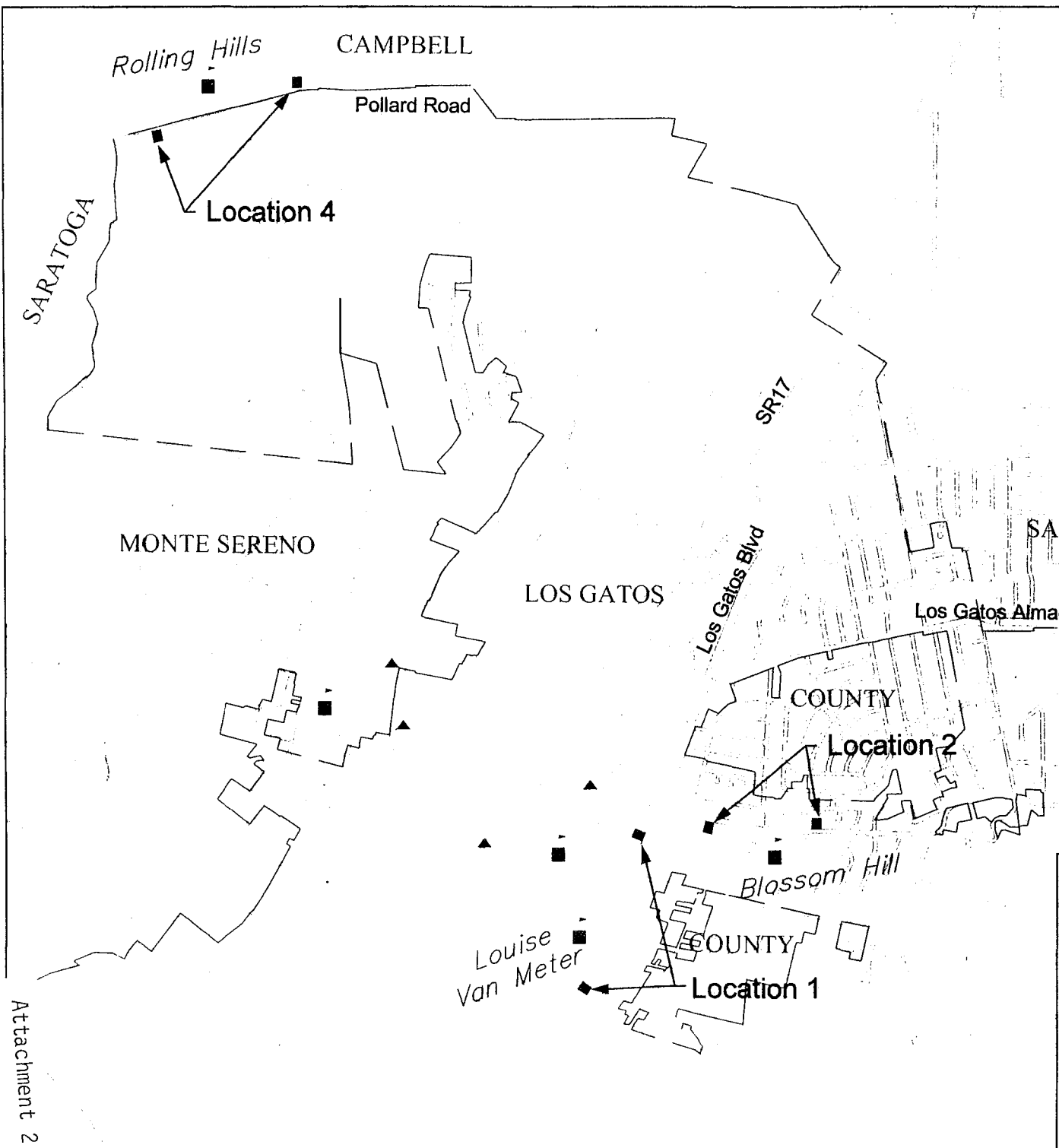
ABSTAIN:

SIGNED:

MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF LOS GATOS/
CHAIR OF THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
LOS GATOS, CALIFORNIA

ATTEST:

CLERK/SECRETARY OF THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
OF THE TOWN OF LOS GATOS
LOS GATOS, CALIFORNIA



PROJECT LEAD APPLICANT AND SUPPORTING JURISDICTIONS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS:

- TOWN OF LOS GATOS
- CITY OF CAMPBELL
- CITY OF MONTE SERENO
- CITY OF SAN JOSE
- CITY OF SARATOGA
- COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
- CAMPBELL UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
- LOS GATOS UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
- SAN JOSE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROJECT LOCATION MAP

LEGEND:

- Proposed Vehicle Speed Feedback Sign Location
- ▲ Existing Vehicle Speed Feedback Sign Location
- School