



MEMO TO: Mayor Vandernail and the Board of Trustees  
FROM: Catherine E. Trotter, AICP  
DATE: May 6, 2018  
SUBJECT: Safe to School Project Proposals

**MATTER BEFORE BOARD:**

Fraser Valley Elementary School Presentation. This educational initiative is a required component of the CDOT grant funding for the US40 Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project.

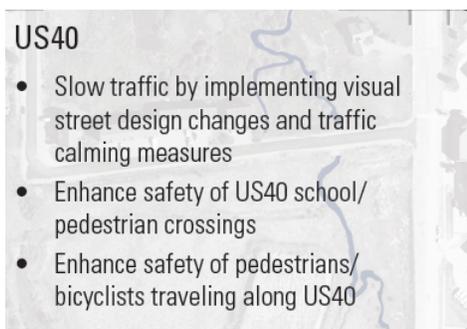
**ACTION REQUESTED:**

The students will be recommending some initiatives to toward safe travel to the Fraser Valley Elementary School. We will be seeking Town Board approval of some or all of these recommendations. Project funding for these initiatives are include in the US 40 Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project budget.

**BACKGROUND:**

In January 2017, the Town Board adopted the “2017 Downtown Fraser Strategic Plan”.

The community expressed a desire for an eclectic, vibrant, family-friendly, safe and walkable downtown. The following goal is one of the guiding principles for future projects within, and adjacent to, the downtown area: increase mobility choices, from getting around town on foot to regional travel via mass transit. The recommendations for US40 focus on improving pedestrian safety and traffic calming functions of the highway:



After the Town Board approved the Downtown Fraser Strategic Plan, Staff applied for two Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) grants seeking funding in order to move forward with some of the design recommendations and implementation actions specified in the plan.

Fraser received both CDOT grants!

The project involves enhancing the existing school zone crosswalk at Fraser Avenue and adding a new crossing at US40 at Byers Avenue. Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grant funding was awarded to assist with implementation of these improvements. Additionally, the project includes safety enhancements to a third, existing crosswalk located at the Fraser Post Office and overall traffic calming measures intended to

slow vehicular travel speeds and reduce the number of crashes resulting in injuries. Highway Safety Improvement Program grant funding was awarded to assist with implementation of these improvements.

“SRTS uses a comprehensive approach to make school routes safe for children walking and bicycling to school. In Colorado, many communities, parents and schools are fostering a safe environment for their students by using SRTS programs to not only fund education and safe infrastructure, but also to encourage healthy options for our children that are safe for both walking and bicycling.”

We have partnered with leaders at the Fraser Elementary School. We utilized a parent survey about walking and biking to school and found that only 8% of the students walked or biked to school. Through our community input process, we have discovered a strong desire to make walking and bicycling to school safer and more accessible for children and adults.

Three different proposals are being recommended by 4<sup>th</sup> grade students to address continued safety in the vicinity of the Fraser Elementary School parking lot. The first recommendation includes a crosswalk leading from the school sidewalk to the parking lot, to increase safety for parents and children walking to and from the front entrance of the school. The second recommendation includes increased signage in both English and Spanish, a solar powered lighted stop sign, and a custom designed bike rack. Finally, the students are recommending an information brochure be created to highlight the new safety features and procedures for parents, students, and community members. The students appreciate the opportunity to have their ideas and voices heard while participating in a program to increase safety both in and around the school and local community.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Pending the Board’s consideration of the presentation and the proposed initiatives, staff would recommend a motion directing staff to work with Fraser Valley Elementary School to implement initiatives within the scope of the US40 Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project.