

## MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Mayor and Yakima City Council members

From: Dulce Gutiérrez, Assistant Mayor

Date: September 12, 2019

RE: Safe Routes to Elementary Schools follow up discussion

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I met with Cynthia and Scott earlier this week to talk about Safe Routes to Elementary Schools in preparation for the Council meeting on September 17. Below is a summary of the meeting.

Proposed following steps:

1. Map of routes categorized as “Safe Routes to Elementary Schools” directly supported by City of Yakima policies and programs. These routes may include funded projects or projects in the planning stage for a source of revenue.
  - a. 2040 Transportation System Plan
  - b. Transportation Benefit District
  - c. Traffic-Calming projects
  - d. Complete Street projects
  - e. Yakima Transit Sidewalk projects
  - f. Safe Routes to Schools Grant Program
2. Identify main “walking routes” to each of the elementary schools for both the Yakima School District (YSD) and the West Valley School District (WVSD). Verify with each school district if routes are correct or need to be revised.
  - a. To reduce the overwhelming costs of needed sidewalks within a ½ mile-radius of each elementary school, work with each school district to identify **one** street east to west and **one** street north to south to install/improve sidewalks at each school and estimate costs.
  - b. Sidewalk routes may be used by school districts to implement a Walking School Bus program.
3. Identify dangerous issues along identified walking routes and develop plan to resolve problems:
  - a. Lack of sidewalks/sidewalk conditions
  - b. Traffic issues
  - c. Lighting
  - d. Gang activity
  - e. Other safety issues

Work with each school district to further collect data to address City Council’s request for the percentage and number of students for mode of transportation to and from school for each of the elementary schools – this data is collected for each grant application, but it would be helpful in further prioritizing projects. Developing a “Matrix of Prioritization” will help in utilizing an equity lens for this city-wide project.

**Benchmark** – By the end of 2019, complete step 1 and step 2 which include a mapping of our current planned routes and the identification of the main walking routes for each Elementary School within city limits.