

Ankeny - Safe Routes to School - School Zone Flashing Beacons

<i>Sponsor</i>	Ankeny
<i>Project Title</i>	Safe Routes to School - School Zone Flashing Beacons
<i>Termini Description (i.e. Park Avenue to 19th Street)</i>	At four elementary schools within Ankeny: Southeast (SE Magazine Road), Crocker (SE Polk City Drive), Ashalnd Ridge (NW Ash Drive), and Rock Creek (NW 36th Street).
<i>Total Estimated Project Cost</i>	\$110,000
<i>Federal Fiscal Year 2019 TAP Request</i>	\$80,000
<i>Total Funding Secured</i>	\$30,000
<i>Source of additional funds and local match?</i>	The City of Ankeny's 2015-2019 Capital Improvements Program includes the matching \$30,000.00 in traffic safety funding to complete this project.
<i>Is this project seeking funding over multiple years?</i>	No
<i>Has your agency previously applied for TAP funds for this project?</i>	No
<i>Has this project previously been awarded TAP funds?</i>	No
<i>What category is this application applying under?</i>	Safe Routes to School
<i>Describe the local support for the project.</i>	This project was proposed for inclusion in Ankeny's Capital Improvements Program which was recently approved by the Ankeny City Council. This project also has the strong endorsement of the Ankeny Community School District. The District's board has acknowledged the justification for these four beacon installations for the sake of the safety of the students who walk to the elementary schools.
<i>Describe the multipurpose aspects of the project.</i>	The proposed beacon installations will provide lower posted speed limits on four streets that are either adjacent to elementary schools or are near the schools. This will provide a safer situation for students, as well as other pedestrians / bicyclists who will be crossing these streets at school start times and dismissal times.
<i>Describe the project's financial plan.</i>	It is the intent of the City to have the beacons and related signing installed by utilizing a combination of TAP funding and local funding. The local funding is secured as part of the Traffic Safety / Signalization Fund within the 2015 – 2019 Capital Improvements Program. This project is a high priority for the City of Ankeny.
<i>Describe the maintenance plans for this project.</i>	The flashing beacons and associated signing will be owned and maintained by the City of Ankeny after installation. All required maintenance will be completed by the Ankeny Public Works Department. The beacons will be timed and maintained by the traffic signal technicians.
<i>Describe the quality/significance of the site.</i>	Each of the four locations is within 400 feet of an elementary school. The flashing beacons will be installed on a higher-classified street (collector or arterial) where there is a high likelihood that school children will be crossing the street. Each of these streets is an urban roadway with PCC curb and gutter pavement, sidewalks / trails on each side the street, proper street lighting and no other features present that would affect street crossings. Each of the four locations currently has a marked school crossing on the street that is utilized by the elementary- aged students who walk to school.

<p><i>Please describe the need for the project.</i></p>	<p>The need for this project is based on pedestrian safety for students of the Ankeny Community School District. Each of the four proposed school speed zones will be installed near an elementary school on a street that currently has a posted speed limit that is above 25 mph. The safety of our elementary school students is paramount. One of the results of the 2009 Ankeny Safe Routes to School Study was to encourage students to walk or bike to school instead of being transported by vehicle. The Ankeny Community School District helped promote this concept to parents and students through the public notification / survey process of the SRTS program. AS a result, this process helped to increase the number of students walking to school. Having these reduced zones in place during school start and dismissal times will help to continue to insure safety for these students, parents and others who have taken the positive step to walk or bike to school vs. utilizing vehicular transportation.</p>
<p><i>Describe the relationship to other regional plans/projects.</i></p>	<p>Since this is not a trail project, it does not have a direct relationship with other projects. However, this project is a direct compliment of the Ankeny Safe Routes to School Study that was completed by the City of Ankeny in 2009. The four flashing beacon installations also fit well within the Ankeny transportation system. Reducing the speed limit on these streets during the times that students are walking to/from school is a safety benefit. However, only having the reduces speed zones in place during other times of the day helps to preserve proper traffic movement on these collector routes. The locations of these flashing beacons are also coordinated with the current and future school boundaries of the Ankeny Community School District.</p>
<p><i>If applicable, please describe the status of the facility right-of-way.</i></p>	<p>Each of the four sets of flashing beacons will be installed within street right-of-way that is held by fee title. No easements or property acquisitions will be needed to complete the project.</p>
<p><i>Explain any urgency with the implementation of the project.</i></p>	<p>The intent of the City is to have the four sets of flashing beacons installed as soon as possible. It would be preferable to have the installations in place for the start of the fall, 2015 school year. Having these installed as soon as possible will provide the higher level of safety for the elementary school students. Thus, pending approval of this TAP application, it is the intent of the City to ask that the 2019 funding be advanced to the current year's funding cycle. It is our understanding that this should be possible, given the relatively low level of requested funding.</p>
<p><i>Describe the impact to regional economic development and tourism.</i></p>	<p>This project is not anticipated to have a direct impact on economic development or tourism. However, there is an indirect benefit. Providing safety for school students is part of the positive culture and environment that creates and maintains the attractive nature of living and working in Ankeny.</p>
<p><i>Additional information you would like to share:</i></p>	<p>Earlier this year, the City of Ankeny formulated a policy that addresses the preservation of pedestrian safety on streets near our elementary schools that carry a posted speed greater than 25 miles per hour. The policy was created as an extension of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and the 2009 Ankeny Safe Routes to School Study. This policy established the need for these four flashing beacon installations. The Ankeny City Council approved this policy by resolution on January 5, 2015. A copy of the policy is being submitted with the application. Thank you for considering this important project.</p>

