



February 20, 2019
Media Inquiries Only
Communications Office
(213) 972-8406

LADOT and Los Angeles Unified Secure \$33.5 Million for Safety Improvements

LOS ANGELES – Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Los Angeles, a partnership of the Los Angeles Department of Transportation and the Los Angeles Unified School District (Los Angeles Unified) - the second-largest school district in the country - worked together to obtain \$33.5 million from the Caltrans Active Transportation Program (ATP) for safety improvements in eight high-need school neighborhoods:

- 112th Street Elementary
- Lovelia P. Flournoy Elementary
- Alexandria Avenue Elementary
- Esperanza Elementary
- John Liechty Middle
- Tenth Street Elementary
- Gratts Learning Academy for Young Scholars
- Gratts Early Education Center

Matching City of Los Angeles funds bring the total investments over the next four years in Safe Routes to School infrastructure to \$42 million.

“The safety of our students is a top priority for Los Angeles Unified, and we applaud the City of Los Angeles’ efforts to invest in pedestrian and traffic safety around our school communities with the greatest need,” said Los Angeles Unified Superintendent Austin Beutner. “Together, we continue to increase awareness about the importance of traffic safety and create safer routes for students and the community.”

SRTS Los Angeles uses transparent, data-driven strategies to target school resources in areas of most need. It reflects a successful localized model for actualizing strong state and national policy goals to prioritize safer streets for walking and bicycling that in return help us reach our sustainability goals.

“We are very excited about the funding awarded to improve pedestrian and street safety for our students and communities that demonstrate a dire need for improved traffic safety,” said Los Angeles Unified Board President Mónica García. “Partnering with the City of Los Angeles on the Safe Routes to School and Vision Zero Initiatives has been critical in ensuring that our students, parents, and staff arrive to and from school





safely every day. We are grateful for the collaboration and for all community members who have invested their time to make this program successful.”

The Los Angeles Unified and SRTS collaboration delivers safety improvements to streets in school neighborhoods and brings safety education into school communities with an emphasis on improving travel conditions and comfort for students who walk, roll, bike, and take transit to school.

“Los Angeles Unified is grateful to the City of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Department of Transportation for their partnership and focus in creating traffic safety awareness and improving infrastructures around school communities,” said L.A. Unified Board Member Dr. Richard A. Vladovic.

ATP will fund safety treatments that include new traffic signals, signal modifications, pedestrian flashing beacons, speed humps, curb extensions, crosswalks, bicycle facilities, new signs, among others, to create safe, low-stress routes to school. Infrastructure investments will complement ongoing SRTS safety education and enforcement activities to increase awareness of how school communities can contribute to safer streets for students walking and bicycling.

“When it's safer to walk and bike, it's more welcoming to walk and bike,” said LADOT General Manager Seleta Reynolds. “Our work with LAUSD to build these simple, effective safety measures aims for students to arrive ready to focus on learning and to protect all the potential that each one of them represents.”

Leveraging a strong public participation model, SRTS works with Los Angeles Unified students, parents, administration, the Los Angeles School Police, Los Angeles Police Department, Office of City Attorney Neighborhood Prosecutors, City Council Offices, Bureau of Engineering, Bureau of Street Services, community-based organizations, and contractors to inform the development of SRTS safety improvement plans.

About LADOT

LADOT leads transportation planning, project delivery, and operations in the City of Los Angeles. We work together and collaborate to deliver a safe, livable, and well-run transportation system in the city and region. Our vision is for all people in Los Angeles to have access to safe and affordable transportation choices that treat everyone with dignity and support vibrant, inclusive communities.

-###-

