



# Memo

To: Clay Pearson, City Manager  
From: Jennifer Lee, Sr. Project Manager  
CC: Trent Epperson, Assistant City Manager  
Robert Upton, P.E., Director  
Skipper Jones, Assistant Director Capital Projects  
Date: April 30, 2020  
Re: Safe Routes to Schools Approval of Advance Funding Agreement (AFA) for Construction

4/30/2020  
To: Mayor and City Council members  
Readying design for safe routes to school walk design, construction dollars to come through HGAC from Federal grant. Clay

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## Purpose

This memo provides information regarding the Advanced Funding Agreement (AFA) with TxDOT for the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) project. The agreement is scheduled for presentation to Council on the May 18, 2020 Agenda.

Under this agreement, TxDOT will reimburse the City 80% of cost related to the construction of approximately 4.5 miles of sidewalks in various locations near three Pearland area schools. The project also includes the construction of three pedestrian bridges. This project will provide enhanced safety by providing an alternative means of travel with improved safety for students to and from these schools and could reduce vehicular traffic in and around area schools.

## Background

In 2005, Congress passed federal legislation establishing a National SRTS program to improve safety for students walking and bicycling to and from school, and to promote these methods of travel as an alternative to vehicular dependence. In 2012, Congress passed a transportation bill making SRTS programs eligible to compete for Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding. The City hired Freese & Nichols Engineers in 2013 to perform a preliminary study to formally implement a SRTS program locally. Input into this process was provided by stakeholders including the Pearland Independent School District (PISD) and Alvin Independent School District (AISD), the School Boards and Administrators, School District transportation staff, teachers and crossing guards, parents and students, law enforcement personnel, Parks & Recreation personnel, Public Works personnel, Engineering & Capital Projects staff, and local health departments and businesses. In 2015 the City submitted this work during a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) call for projects of the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) and in 2017, the Transportation Policy Council awarded the SRTS project to the City.

The City's SRTS Plan was first published in 2014 with seven schools examined in the plan. City Staff then prioritized the list of schools based on benefits to the greatest number of students and the greatest improvements to safety. These enhancements ranged from adding a crosswalk, connecting disconnected sidewalks, and providing pedestrian bridges in the high traffic areas close to the school where students were most likely to walk rather than travel by alternative means (parent's vehicles or buses). Staff then narrowed

the scope to the top five priority improvements at each school, and used this weighted criteria to determine the top three priority schools based on a cost benefit ratio and scoring system that included safety factors and recognition of the number of households and calculated number of walking students within the “no-bus” radius of the school.

Carleston Elementary, Cockrell Elementary, and Pearland Junior High South that scored highest for improvements. A fourth school, Challenger Elementary scored within the top five, but because sidewalks are being added with the current Hughes Ranch Road construction project, was not included in the SRTS project. Pearland’s SRTS program was then submitted for the TIP Call for Projects and was selected by the Houston-Galveston Area Council for reimbursement of 80% of construction costs through federal TAP funding. This funding agreement does not reimburse the City for costs associated with design. The Local Project Advance Funding Agreement (AFA) was approved by TxDOT on April 17, 2020 and staff is preparing the AFA for Council approval on May 18, 2020.

Funds awarded by the H-GAC in this AFA cover cost associated with Construction and TxDOT’s plan review process. Council awarded a contract to Gauge Engineering to perform professional engineering design services for this project in May 2019. While design is not eligible for reimbursement, the design phase must meet all of TxDOT’s standard design criteria and environmental requirements. TxDOT will review the design at 60%, 90%, and 95% milestones. Once approved for advertisement the City will use its standard Lowest Responsible Bidder process to obtain construction bids.

**Scope:**

The AFA defines the scope of work, the City’s and TxDOT’s responsibilities, and sources of funding. The project consists of the construction of approximately four and half miles of sidewalks in various locations, near Carleston Elementary, Cockrell Elementary, and Pearland Jr. High School and two pedestrian bridges across Hickory Slough and one pedestrian bridge on the east side of Veterans at the drainage ditch. The purpose of this TAP project is to provide enhanced safety and an alternative transportation path to and from school for students and pedestrians apart from vehicular traffic. No additional property acquisition is anticipated for this project.

**Budget Info**

Funding Sources	Series	To Date	Future	Total Budget
General Revenue - Cash				-
Certificates of Obligation			788,400	788,400
Certificates of Obligation				-
General Obligation Bonds				-
General Obligation Bonds				-
W/S Revenue Bonds				-
Impact Fee - Debt				-
Other Funding Sources - HGAC TIP			2,553,600	2,553,600
Other Funding Sources - Fund Balance		420,000		420,000
<b>Total Funding Sources</b>		<b>420,000</b>	<b>3,342,000</b>	<b>3,762,000</b>

Expenditures	To Date	Future	Total
PER			-
Land		190,000	190,000
Design	240,533		240,533

Construction		3,167,000	3,167,000
Construction Management/Inspection			-
Construction Materials Testing		25,000	25,000
FF&E			-
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>240,533</b>	<b>3,382,000</b>	<b>3,622,533</b>

<b>Project Balance/Contingency</b>			<b>139,467</b>
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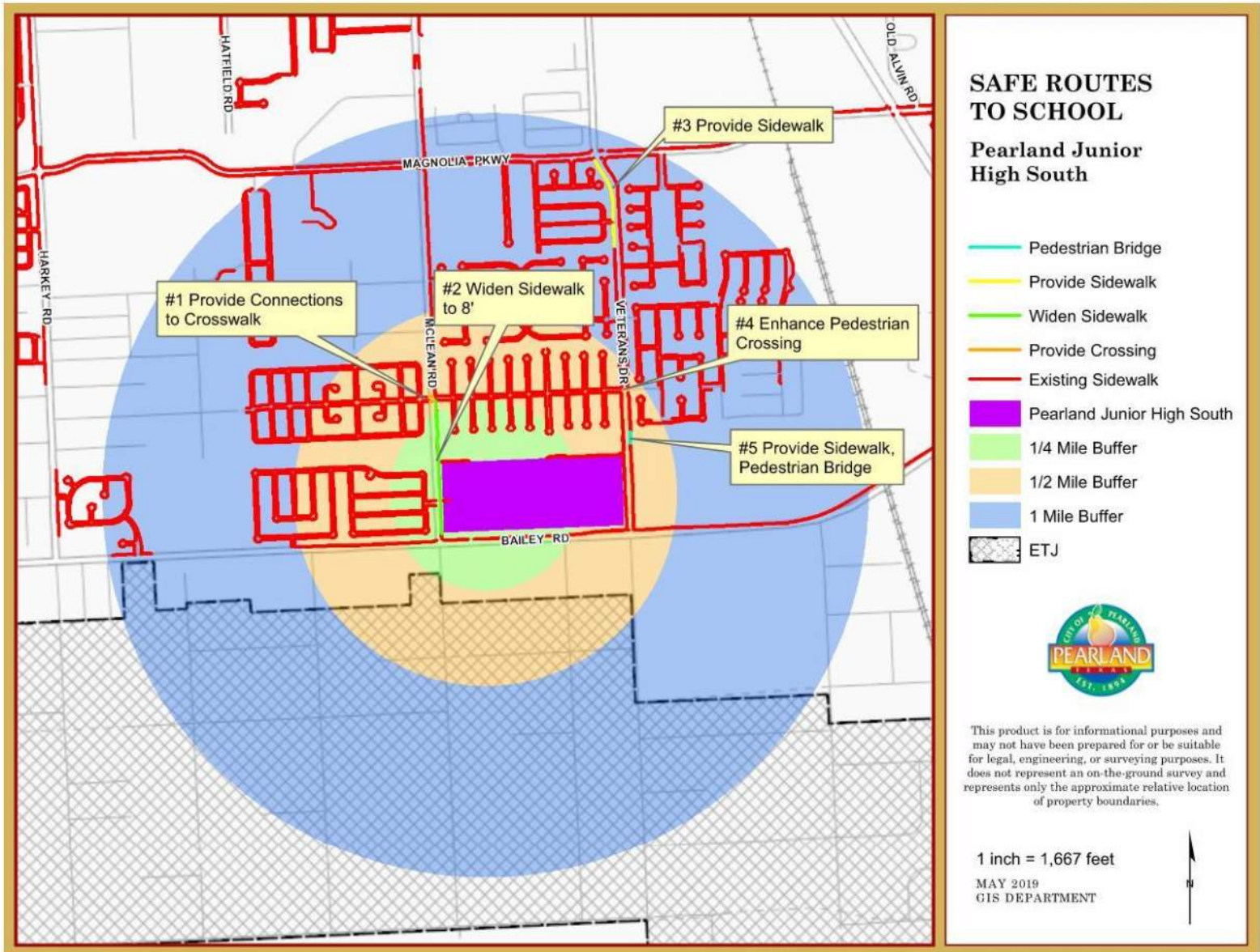
### Schedule Info

	<i>Base Line</i>	<i>Current</i>
<i>Design Start</i>	June-19	May-20
<i>Bid Start</i>	July-20	May-21
<b><i>Construction Start</i></b>	January-21	<b>November-21</b>
<b><i>Proposed Construction Completion</i></b>	August-21	<b>July-22</b>

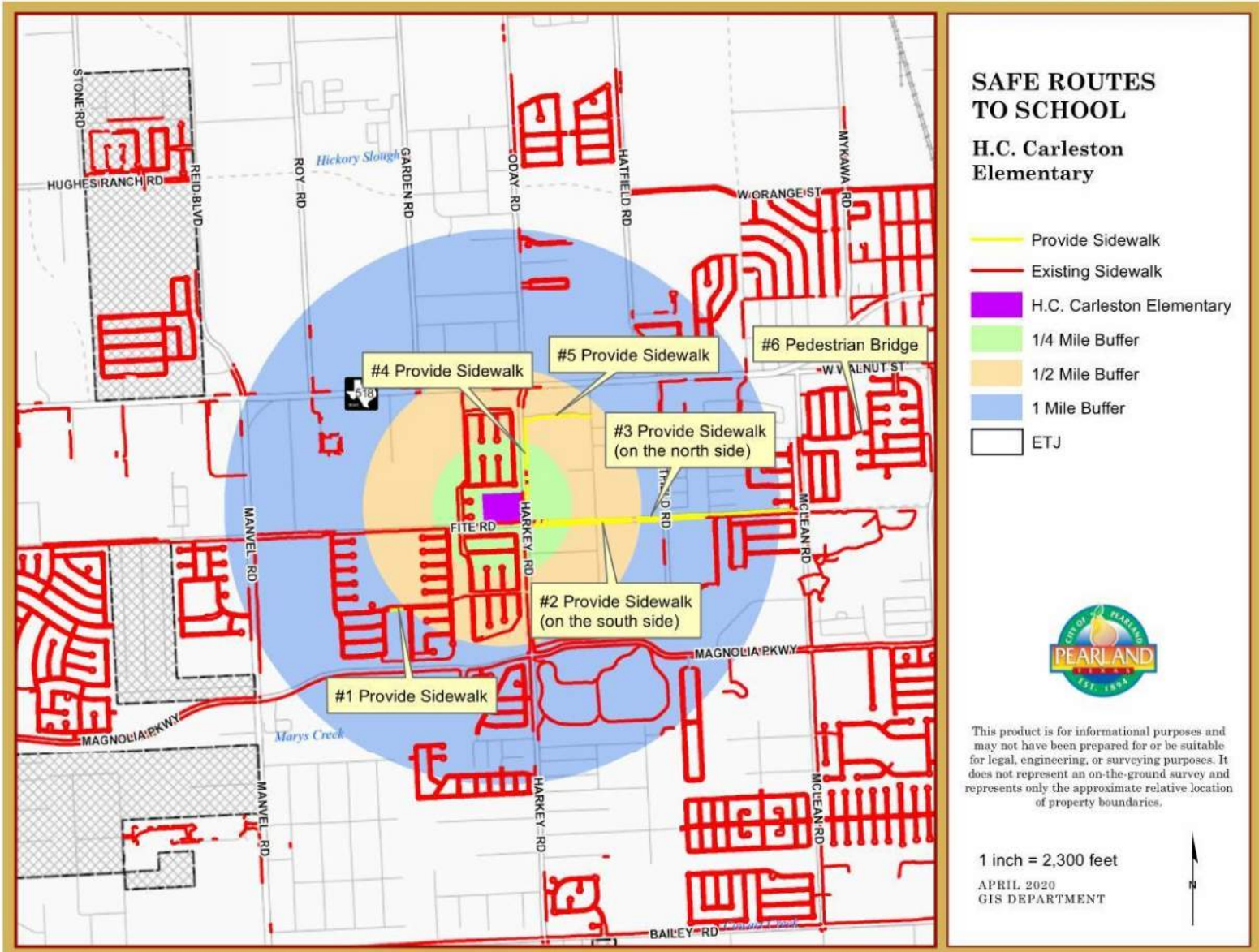
Rain Days: N/A

Vicinity maps of each of the three schools within the scope of the project:

### Pearland Jr. High South



# Carleston Elementary School



# Cockrell Elementary School

