



**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO  
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST**

RECEIVED  
CITY OF SAN ANTONIO  
CITY CLERK

2013 MAR -6 PM 4:31

TO: Mayor & City Council

FROM: Councilman Diego Bernal, District 1

COPIES TO: Sheryl Sculley, City Manager; Leticia Vacek, City Clerk; Edward Benavides, Chief of Staff; Chris Callanen, Assistant to the City Council; Michael Bernard, City Attorney; John Peterek, Management Services Administrator

SUBJECT: Safe Access to Schools

DATE: February 25, 2013

Issue Proposed for Consideration

I respectfully request that the Office of the City Manager and Staff take the appropriate steps in bringing forward a policy, program, or ordinance (as necessary), along with an associated budget, regarding safe pedestrian access to elementary, middle, and high schools for children, families, and disabled individuals.

Primary infrastructure necessities include, but are not limited to:

(1) (a) Federal, City and State compliant sidewalks around the perimeter of a school location, or where residential streets adjoin school property; (b) Federal, City and State compliant sidewalks on arterial, collector, and local streets that feed into schools, as determined appropriate by the City.

(2) (a) Proper street lighting around perimeter of schools where UDC Section 35-506 (i) states that 300 feet apart as a minimum requirement for residential streets be considered and appropriately enforced by City Staff, in coordination with CPS Energy, abutting school properties so as to provide pedestrians and motorists adequate visibility of one another during morning and evening hours; (b) moreover, the City, in conjunction with CPS, consider higher-wattage street light bulbs where allowable and appropriate, while also ensuring all bulbs are functioning as intended.

Note: I respectfully request that the Governance Committee consider this item in tandem with Councilman Cris Medina's "Safe Streets San Antonio" Council Consideration Request.

Brief Background

In San Antonio, a number of older schools suffer from aging infrastructure that does not satisfactorily address safe pedestrian access for children, families and the disabled. Many of the existing sidewalks no longer meet Federal, State and City requirements, as laid out by the *City of San Antonio Sidewalk and Driveway Design and Construction Guidelines*. Furthermore, sidewalks do not exist for many residential streets that lead directly to a number of schools, forcing children, families and the disabled to share roads with motorized vehicles.

The Safe Routes to Schools Program states on their website, "According to a study by the UNC Highway Safety Research Center, conducted for the Federal Highway Administration, the likelihood of a site with a paved sidewalk being a crash site is 88.2 percent lower than a site without a sidewalk after accounting for traffic volume and speed limits."

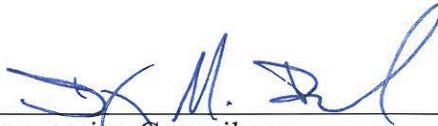
Additionally, Safe Routes to Schools highlights that "Street lighting improves pedestrian visibility and personal security . . . improves safety by allowing pedestrians and motorists to see each other . . . and it is especially important to provide lighting at crossings. Lighting can also be helpful along streets adjacent to the school grounds to minimize school vandalism and improve security. While most school walking activity occurs during daylight hours, the morning school trip in the middle of winter often occurs during hours of darkness, and many school activities occur during nighttime hours." A number of schools lack adequate lighting, and City Staff, in conjunction with CPS, should work together in providing safely lit walkways and crosswalks by following the minimum requirements, as outlined by UDC Section 35-506 (i); or in conditions in which additional street lighting is appropriate, but may not qualify under current UDC Code.

My office's experience with facilitating additional street lighting at both Ridgeview Elementary and Neal Elementary, brought to my attention by concerned residents and school administrators, highlights the need for additional safety measures many of our schools face. Long needed sidewalks along Edison High School, on Fresno Road, clearly demonstrates the impact adequate infrastructure creates for students and families on arterial roads. See attached.

The City Manager's Office and Staff should develop a partnership with San Antonio School Districts and create funding strategies that address the outlined safety measures described above. The safety of children, families and the disabled is a top priority and needs to be budgeted accordingly. Lastly, this request is in line with both SA2020 and the subsequent Complete Streets Policy passed by the San Antonio City Council. I ask for your consideration and support in providing safe access to schools for all residents of San Antonio.

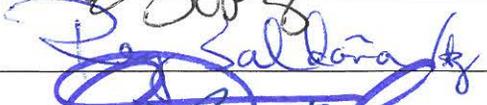
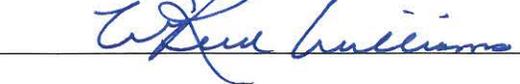
RECEIVED  
SAN ANTONIO  
CITY CLERK  
2013 MAR 6 PM 4:31

Submitted for Council consideration  
by:

  
Sponsoring Councilman

Supporting Councilmembers' Signatures (4 only)

District No.

1.		6
2.		4
3.		7
4.		8

2010 APR 31



Report a problem Image Date: April 2011

