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July 7, 2017

City receives \$1.7M Safe Routes to School funding

Project includes proposed work on Gardens Blvd, Irene and Gregory Streets and Johnson Avenue

The city is excited to share that we were awarded Safe Routes to School federal funding that will allow us to build a protected route to an elementary school, and will also serve all residents by making key trail connections throughout the city.

“By building a more walkable and bikeable city we can improve health and wellness, ensure safer routes to schools and parks and boost the overall quality of life,” said Mayor Ken Shetter. “There is even a positive correlation between walkability and housing values. The North Central Texas Council of Governments grant, combined with the investment the city is making in the project, represents a major step forward for the City of Burleson.”

The nearly \$2.4M project (of which Burleson is paying only 30 percent of the project via the City's Annual Sidewalk Program funds) was initiated as a response to a request from third graders at Norwood Elementary. The students requested bike and pedestrian facilities on Irene Street during the December 8, 2014, City Council meeting. Saying that the ‘situation is dangerous and they would like to be proactive and fix the problem before a horrible accident may occur.’ The route also connects two major parks, city baseball fields, bike trails, the city’s only post office, library and senior center, employment locations, restaurants and businesses. It will provide four new connections to the city’s existing trail system. When complete, 1,927 residences will be within a three-minute walk of the improved connections.

All work on the project is within the City’s rights-of-way and includes the following improvements:

Gardens Blvd (Bailey Lake Park to Irene)

- Replace sidewalk with 10-foot concrete shared use path
- Construct parking islands

Irene Street (Gardens to Gregory)

Remove on-street parking on east side of street

- Construct four-foot wide concrete median on east side of street
- Construct ten-foot wide concrete shared use path
- Construct parking islands/bulb outs on west side at intersections
- A 4’ sidewalk will also be constructed on the west side of the street between Gardens and Hidden Creek Parkway

Gregory Street

- Construct 10-foot concrete shared use path on east side of street (Kerr Middle School's side)

- Stripe on-street parking lanes with solid white stripe and stripe center line (double yellow)

Johnson Ave.

- Add an 8' wide 2-way Bike Sidepath from Gregory to Warren Park
- Replace existing sidewalk with a 10' Shared Use Path in Warren Park
- Construct a 10' Shared Use Trail to playground and swing facilities in Warren Park
- Add a bridge over Town Creek along the Trail route
- Add a Pedestrian Crosswalk across Johnson between Warren Park and the Library

Additional signage and striping to make connections will be done on Maple, Irene/Arnold/Elk, and Newton.

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