

PUBLIC MEETING – 6:00 PM
VILLAGE HALL
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2025
SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL NON-INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT 2025

A special public meeting was held to discuss the Village of Ladd's application for the **2025 Safe Routes to School Non-Infrastructure Grant Project**.

Village President Frank Cattani called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Trustees Patrick Flanagan, Jan Martin, Dan Nelson arrived at 6:04, Brad Nicholson, Molly Thrasher, Bernie Victor.

In Attendance: Clerk Rhonda Bezely, Deputy Clerk Julie Koch, Attorney Pat Barry arrived @ 6:06 pm, Police Chief Jacob Frund, and Admin Asst. Sammi Sarosinski

Martin Motioned/Thrasher Seconded to approve the minutes from the August 26, 2025, Public Meeting as presented.

Ayes: Flanagan, Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher Victor – motion carried.

One resident attended the Public meeting. President Cattani welcomed everyone, thanked them for their interest, and outlined tonight's meeting.

New Business: Safe Routes to School Non-Infrastructure 2025 Grant Application. Discussion of the project administrator, budget allowance, overview of the program and timeline, and letters of support.

Sammi Sarosinski went over the Non-Infrastructure Safety Program Description from her Application for 2025.

The Village of Ladd will implement a new non-infrastructure safety program designed to improve walking and biking safety for elementary-age children while fostering long-term community engagement. This program directly addresses Safe Routes to School goals by combining education, encouragement, and enforcement in a positive and age-appropriate manner.

As part of the program, every student from Preschool through 4th Grade will be measured at school to ensure proper helmet sizing. Each child will receive a new, properly fitted helmet, which will be distributed during the Traffic Garden event. To further encourage bicycle use and safe riding, a limited number of bicycles will be raffled at the event, allowing students to practice their new skills in a safe, structured environment.

In addition, the Ladd Police Department will host Bike to School Days, where officers accompany students on their rides to school. These events provide direct modeling of safe riding behavior while strengthening trust and relationships between youth and law enforcement.

Finally, police vehicles will be equipped with small incentive prizes to reward children observed practicing safe behaviors – such as properly crossing at intersections, wearing helmets, and biking responsibly. This positive reinforcement strategy builds safety awareness,

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encourages ongoing participation, and supports the creation of a culture of safety within the community.

Through these combined efforts, the Village of Ladd will address non-infrastructure education and encouragement needs while creating lasting behavioral change that advances the mission of Safe Routes to School.

The total budget for this grant is \$17,715.00.

There is no match for the Village of Ladd.

This grant application must be submitted by October 13, 2025, at 5:00 pm.

We will be notified in Spring 2026 regarding the grant award. If approved, the Traffic Garden project must be completed during the 2026–2027 school year. The application process has become highly competitive, and the Village is working diligently to secure funding again this year.

No questions were presented.

Victor motioned/Nicholson seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes: Flanagan, Martin, Nelson, Nicholson, Thrasher Victor – motion carried.

Rhonda Bezely
Village Clerk
