

CITY OF LAREDO SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

**A-2019-SC-06
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1110 HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
August 15, 2019
12:00 P.M.**



DISABILITY ACCESS STATEMENT



Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aid or services are requested to contact Jose A. Valdez Jr., City Secretary, at (956) 791-7308 at least two working days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made. The accessible entrance and accessible parking spaces are located at City Hall, 1100 Victoria Ave.

Out of consideration for all attendees of the City Council meetings, please turn off all cellular phones and pagers, or place on inaudible signal. Thank you for your consideration.

Pursuant to the Texas Penal Code (trespass by holder of license to carry a handgun), a person licensed under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code (Concealed Handgun Law or Handgun Licensing Law), may not enter into the City Council Chamber while City Council is in session with a concealed or openly-carried handgun.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

IV. ROLL CALL

Citizen comments

Citizens are required to fill out a witness card and submit it to the City Secretary no later than 12:15 p.m. and identify themselves at the microphone. Comments are limited to three (3) minutes per speaker. No more than three (3) persons will be allowed to speak on any side of an issue. Should there be more than three (3) people who wish to speak on a particular issue, they need to select not more than three (3) representatives to

speaking for them and the presiding officer may limit the public comments further in the interest of an orderly meeting. Speakers may not pass their minutes to any other speaker. Comments should be relevant to City business and delivered in a professional manner. No derogatory remarks will be permitted.

V. ENGINEERING: STAFF SOURCE RAMON E. CHAVEZ, CITY ENGINEER

1. **2019-R-122** A resolution authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to submit a grant application to the Texas Department of Transportation 2019 Transportation Alternatives(TA)/Safe Routes to School (SRTS) call for projects in the amount of \$1,205,546.00 for an on-street and off-street bike route connecting Fasken Elementary, Kazen Elementary, Finley Elementary, and George Washington Middle, as described in the 2019 TA/SRTS detailed application. No local match is required.
2. **2019-R-123** A resolution authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to submit a grant application to the Texas Department of Transportation 2019 Transportation Alternatives(TA)/Safe Routes to School (SRTS) call for projects in the amount of \$630,084.00 for an on-street bicycle facility on St. Luke Boulevard connecting nearby neighborhood children to Veterans Memorial Elementary and Lamar Bruni Vergara Middle School, as described in the 2019 TA/SRTS detailed application. No local match is required.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Council reserves the right to adjourn into executive session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any posted agenda item when authorized by Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney), 551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property), 551.073 (Deliberations about Gifts and Donations), 551.074 (Personnel Matters), 551.076 (Deliberations about Security Devices), and/or 551.086 (Economic Development). Following closed session, the open meeting will reconvene at which time action, if any, may be taken.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

This notice was posted at the Municipal Government Offices, 1110 Houston Street, Laredo, Texas, at a place convenient and readily accessible to the public at all times. Said notice was posted on Monday, August 12, 2019 at 12:00 p.m.

Jose A. Valdez, Jr.
City Secretary

City Council-Special

Meeting Date: 08/15/2019

Initiated By: Robert A. Eads, Co-Interim City Manager

Staff Source: Ramon E. Chavez, City Engineering

SUBJECT

2019-R-122 A resolution authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to submit a grant application to the Texas Department of Transportation 2019 Transportation Alternatives(TA)/Safe Routes to School (SRTS) call for projects in the amount of \$1,205,546.00 for an on-street and off-street bike route connecting Fasken Elementary, Kazen Elementary, Finley Elementary, and George Washington Middle, as described in the 2019 TA/SRTS detailed application. No local match is required.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION

N/A

BACKGROUND

The City should continue to coordinate with the Laredo MPO to partner with schools, the Laredo Police Department, Webb County and the TxDOT to identify funding and opportunities to enhance walking routes to school”; and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) issued a call for projects in February 2019 for communities to apply for funding assistance through the Transportation Alternatives (TA) and/or Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Programs; and the SRTS funds may be used for development of plans, specifications, and estimates; environmental documentation; and construction of pedestrian and/or bicycle infrastructure. The SRTS funds do not require a local match. As the Project Sponsor, the City of Laredo would be responsible for all non-reimbursable costs and 100% of overruns, if any, for SRTS funds.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff supports the project and recommends to submit application.

Fiscal Impact

Fiscal Year:	2019
Budgeted Y/N?:	N/A
Source of Funds:	N/A

Account #: N/A

Change Order: Exceeds 25% Y/N:

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

No Financial Impact.

Attachments

2019-R-122

Flyer

Map

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-R-122

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CO-INTERIM CITY MANAGERS TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION 2019 TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES(TA) /SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS) CALL FOR PROJECTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,205,546 FOR AN ON-STREET AND OFF-STREET BIKE ROUTE CONNECTING FASKEN ELEMENTARY, KAZEN ELEMENTARY, FINLEY ELEMENTARY, AND GEORGE WASHINGTON MIDDLE, AS DESCRIBED IN THE 2019 TA/SRTS DETAILED APPLICATION. NO LOCAL MATCH OF FUNDING IS REQUIRED.

WHEREAS, the City of Laredo Comprehensive Plan calls for a less car-dependent future, with a priority on cultivating walkability and bikeability; and

WHEREAS, Policy 4.6.8 of the Mobility chapter of the Comprehensive Plan states “infrastructure that encourages students to walk or bike safely to school should be supported. The City should continue to coordinate with the Laredo MPO to partner with schools, the Laredo Police Department, Webb County and the TxDOT to identify funding and opportunities to enhance walking routes to school”; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) issued a call for projects in February 2019 for communities to apply for funding assistance through the Transportation Alternatives (TA) and/or Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Programs; and

WHEREAS, the SRTS funds may be used for development of plans, specifications, and estimates; environmental documentation; and construction of pedestrian and/or bicycle infrastructure. The SRTS funds do not require a local match. As the Project Sponsor, the City of Laredo would be responsible for all non-reimbursable costs and 100% of overruns, if any, for SRTS funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAREDO THAT:

The City Council supports the project and authorizes to submit for funding the Riverbank Bike Infrastructure Project as described in the 2019 TA/SRTS Detailed Application and is willing to commit to the project’s development, implementation, construction, maintenance, management, and financing. The City of Laredo Council is willing and able to authorize, by resolution or ordinance, the Local Government to enter into an agreement with TxDOT should the project be selected for funding.

DULY PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR ON THIS THE _____ DAY OF _____, 2019.

PETE SAENZ
MAYOR

ATTESTED:

JOSE A. VALDEZ, JR.
CITY SECRETARY

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

KRISTINA L. HALE
CITY ATTORNEY



CITY OF LAREDO

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT



Safe Routes to School

Safe Routes to School is a Federally funded, TxDOT administered grant program dedicated to locally sponsored infrastructure projects that facilitate walking and biking to school. The City of Laredo is seeking funding in order to get this project implemented.

About the Grant

- \$46 million in funding available for 357 projects state wide.
- Projects must be located within 2 miles of a public, charter, or private K – 8th grade school
- No local match of funding is required
- Preliminary application was due April 12, 2019; Detailed application is due August 15, 2019
- Eligible Activities include:
 1. Bicycle infrastructure improvements
 2. Shared use paths
 3. Sidewalk improvements
 4. Infrastructure-related projects to improve safety for non-motorized transportation
- The criteria evaluation categories are as follows:
 1. Safety
 2. Project Readiness
 4. Quality of Life
 5. Connectivity & Accessibility
 7. Planning

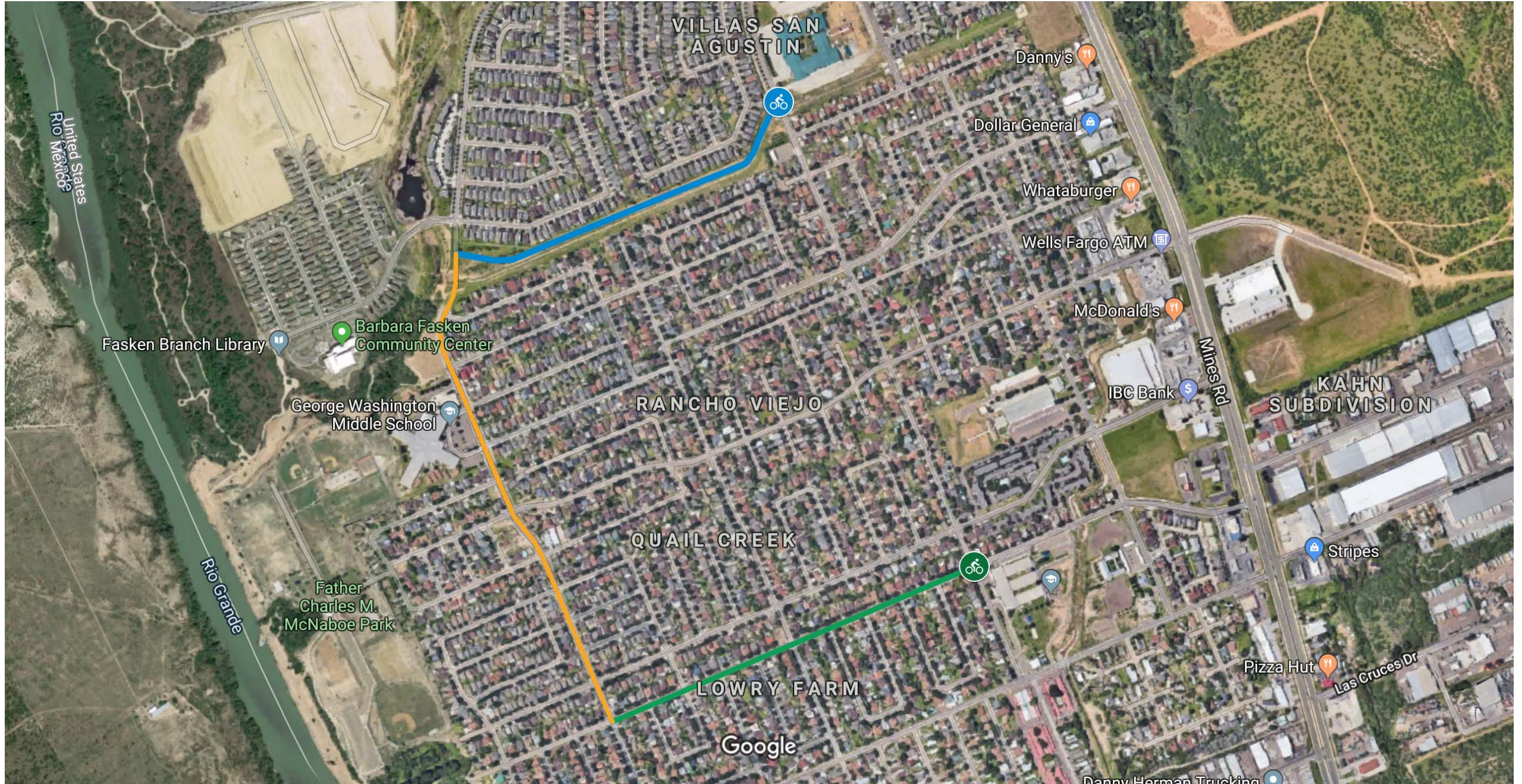
Why It's Important

- Today's generation of children have *shorter expected lifespans* than their parents due to the epidemic of childhood obesity (*Medium; Declining Life Expectancy According to New CDC Data; David Ludwig*)
- Carbon emissions contribute to the bleak outlook of our children's future, as our car dependence pushes us closer to extreme heat, drought, floods and poverty, according to the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (*The Guardian; We have 12 years to limit climate change catastrophe, warns UN; Jonathan Watts*)
- Walkable neighborhoods have higher property values; investments in biking, walking, and mixed use will yield returns on school district revenues (*Curbed; How much is walkability worth in your neighborhood?;*

Barbara Eldredge)



City of Laredo- Riverbank Bike Trail



City Council-Special

Meeting Date: 08/15/2019

Initiated By: Robert A. Eads, Co-Interim City Manager

Staff Source: Ramon C. Chavez, City Engineer

SUBJECT

2019-R-123 A resolution authorizing the Co-Interim City Managers to submit a grant application to the Texas Department of Transportation 2019 Transportation Alternatives(TA)/Safe Routes to School (SRTS) call for projects in the amount of \$630,084.00 for an on-street bicycle facility on St. Luke Boulevard connecting nearby neighborhood children to Veterans Memorial Elementary and Lamar Bruni Vergara Middle School, as described in the 2019 TA/SRTS detailed application. No local match is required.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION

N/A

BACKGROUND

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) issued a call for projects in February 2019 for communities to apply for funding assistance through the Transportation Alternatives (TA) and/or Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Programs; and the SRTS funds may be used for development of plans, specifications, and estimates; environmental documentation; and construction of pedestrian and/or bicycle infrastructure. The SRTS funds do not require a local match. As the Project Sponsor, the City of Laredo would be responsible for all non-reimbursable costs and 100% of overruns, if any, for SRTS funds.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff supports the project and recommends to submit grant application.

Fiscal Impact

Fiscal Year:	2019
Budgeted Y/N?:	N/A
Source of Funds:	N/A

Account #: N/A

Change Order: Exceeds 25% Y/N:

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

No Financial Impact.

Attachments

2019-R-123

Flyer

Map

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-R-123

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CO-INTERIM CITY MANAGERS TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION 2019 TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES(TA) /SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS) CALL FOR PROJECTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$630,084 FOR AN ON-STREET BICYCLE FACILITY ON ST. LUKE BOULEVARD CONNECTING NEARBY NEIGHBORHOOD CHILDREN TO VETERANS MEMORIAL ELEMENTARY AND LAMAR BRUNI VERGARA MIDDLE SCHOOL, AS DESCRIBED IN THE 2019 TA/SRTS DETAILED APPLICATION. NO LOCAL MATCH OF FUNDING IS REQUIRED.

WHEREAS, the City of Laredo Comprehensive Plan calls for a less car-dependent future, with a priority on cultivating walkability and bikeability; and

WHEREAS, Policy 4.6.8 of the Mobility chapter of the Comprehensive Plan states “infrastructure that encourages students to walk or bike safely to school should be supported. The City should continue to coordinate with the Laredo MPO to partner with schools, the Laredo Police Department, Webb County and the TxDOT to identify funding and opportunities to enhance walking routes to school”; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) issued a call for projects in February 2019 for communities to apply for funding assistance through the Transportation Alternatives (TA) and/or Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Programs; and

WHEREAS, the SRTS funds may be used for development of plans, specifications, and estimates; environmental documentation; and construction of pedestrian and/or bicycle infrastructure. The SRTS funds do not require a local match. As the Project Sponsor, the City of Laredo would be responsible for all non-reimbursable costs and 100% of overruns, if any, for SRTS funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAREDO THAT:

The City Council supports the project, and authorizes to submit for funding the St. Luke’s Bike Trail Project as described in the 2019 TA/SRTS Detailed Application and is willing to commit to the project’s development, implementation, construction, maintenance, management, and financing. The City of Laredo Council is willing and able to authorize, by resolution or ordinance, the Local Government to enter into an agreement with TxDOT should the project be selected for funding.

DULY PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR ON THIS THE _____ DAY OF _____, 2019.

PETE SAENZ
MAYOR

ATTESTED:

JOSE A. VALDEZ, JR.
CITY SECRETARY

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

KRISTINA L. HALE
CITY ATTORNEY



CITY OF LAREDO

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT



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Why It's Important

- Today's generation of children have *shorter expected lifespans* than their parents due to the epidemic of childhood obesity (*Medium; Declining Life Expectancy According to New CDC Data; David Ludwig*)
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- Walkable neighborhoods have higher property values; investments in biking, walking, and mixed use will yield returns on school district revenues (*Curbed; How much is walkability worth in your neighborhood?;*

Barbara Eldredge)

Google Maps City of Laredo- St. Luke Boulevard Bike Trail

