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Burbank set to OK plan to make roads by schools bicycle-friendly

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BURBANK - The Burbank City Council was scheduled to approve a plan late Tuesday to pay nearly \$80,000 for new technology at 11 intersections near elementary schools to make it safer for kids to ride their bikes to and from campus.

The Safe Routes to School plan is part of a Caltrans project, which provided nearly \$66,000 in 2004 to help get the effort off the ground. Under the plan, the city would chip in \$14,000 from Proposition C, the Los Angeles County half-cent sales tax measure approved by voters in 1990.

"In Burbank, a lot of the major streets are too narrow to accommodate bicycle lanes," said David Kriske, a senior planner with the city. So the city wants to identify nearby local streets that parallel major roads and provide a safer street for cyclists, he said.

The plan would allow bicyclists to use local streets to get through town and would make signal improvements to help them cross Victory and Glenoaks boulevards, Hollywood Way, Alameda Avenue and other major streets.

As part of the plan, traffic engineers would extend the timing of signals and install cameras, pavement sensors and push buttons specifically so riders won't have to get off their bikes.

The plan would dovetail with the city's \$9 million Bicycle Master Plan, a 20-year road map for more than 32 miles of bike paths, lanes and routes in Burbank and connections to other regional bike routes across the San Fernando Valley.

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