

## **Safe route to Jenny Lind Elementary gets key vote**

**by Nick Baptista**

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A nearly \$1 million project designed to improve student safety walking to and from Jenny Lind Elementary School moved closer to reality at Tuesday's meeting of the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors.

A portion of the mostly state-funded Safe Routes to School project for Jenny Lind Elementary calls for the construction of a sidewalk within the existing right-of-way along Driver Road leading to the school. The board unanimously approved a \$65,000 contribution from the County Service Area No. 1, Rancho Calaveras fund as a local match for the sidewalk.

The CSA-1 advisory road committee earlier this month voted in favor of the action.

The CSA covers Rancho Calaveras. The funds are collected from property owners through a benefit assessment and used to maintain and improve roads within the service area.

The Safe Routes to Schools project has been in the works for several years and was initiated by retired Calaveras Unified School District Superintendent Jim Frost and CUSD Board Member Sherri Reusche.

District 5 Supervisor Darren Spellman at Tuesday's meeting said a portion of the project had to be scaled back because the school district reneged on its funding obligation. He said efforts would continue to get the additional funding so the project could be completed in its entirety.

The project calls for improved pedestrian access across State Route 26 along Driver Road to the school. The anticipated design will include the use of in-pavement warning lights providing an illuminated crosswalk for State Route 26 at or near the Baldwin Street intersection.

"I want to thank CSA-1 and the supervisor of the district to allow this to go through," said District 1 Supervisor Gary Tofanelli. "This is a great project and involves the safety of students."

He seconded Spellman's motion. They along with Supervisors Merita Callaway, Ton Tryon and Steve Wilensky voted in favor.