

City of Culver City, California
City Council Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: 05/22/06		Item Number: <u>A-8</u>	
AGENDA ITEM: Consideration to Approve the Purchase of Replacement Traffic Signal Preemption Devices, Project T-1008			
Contact Persons/Dept.: Elaine Jeng/PW, Max Paetzold/PW		Phone Number: (310) 253-5621 (310) 253-5613	
Fiscal Impact: Yes ☒ No ☐		General Fund: Yes ☐ No ☒	
Public Hearing: ☐		Action Item: ☒ Attachments: ☒	
Public Notification: Master Notification List 5/18/06 and Chief Jeff Eastman on May 11, 2006			
Department Approval: Charles D. Herbertson 5/11/06		CAO Approval: Jerry Fulwood 5/18/06	
City Controller Approval: Marlee Chang 5/17/06			

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the purchase of traffic signal preemption devices for 46 intersections for Capital Improvement Project, T-1008.

BACKGROUND:

Traffic signal preemption devices give priority to emergency vehicles such as fire, police and also buses. The City has been utilizing preemption device for more than 20 years for fire vehicles only. All devices were purchased from the manufacturer 3M.

Preemption devices are comprised of three components: a detection unit on top of traffic signal heads, connection wires from the detection unit to the traffic signal controller and discriminator cards to program the traffic controller. As fire vehicles approach an intersection equipped with the preemption device, the strobe light atop fire vehicles would emit a signal at a particular frequency readable by the detection unit. The detection unit then sends the information through the connection wires to the traffic controller. Based on the information programmed in the discriminator card, the signal would change its signal timing to accommodate the approaching emergency vehicle.

Preemption devices reduce the amount of traffic accidents between emergency and commuter vehicles as well as reduce response time. Many of the existing preemption devices were installed 20 years ago. Most devices are barely functional and require much of maintenance staff's time to maintain the operability of the equipment.

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DISCUSSION:

The manufacturer of preemption devices, 3M, is having a 50% sale. The sale expires on June 30, 2006. Staff is working with the representatives of Caltrans and FHWA to ensure that the grant (discussed below) would be available and the project qualifies for expenditure reimbursement before the end of 3M's promotional period on June 30, 2006.

With the current sale, the cost to replace preemption devices at 46 intersections would be approximately \$211,000.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The grant funding is comprised of two sources of funds; Demo-TEA 21 would provide approximately \$79,000 and SAFTEA-LU would provide \$26,000, for a total of \$105,000. Demo-TEA 21 fund is earmarked by the congress and based on the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Culver City's grant is secured and available. In order to begin using the funds, the City would need to work with the Local Assistance office of Caltrans District 7 office to file the appropriate paperwork. Staff has already begun this process. SAFTEA-LU funds would not be available until after July 2006. When the fund becomes available, the same process is required to begin using the SAFTEA-LU funds.

The available portion of the grant (\$79,000) would be used for equipment purchase. The remainder portion of the grant (\$26,000) would be used for the installation and implementation phase of the project to follow after the initial equipment purchase.

The federal grants require a total local match of \$85,000.

The project currently has an allocation of \$20,000 of Special Gas Tax funds. This is \$65,000 short of the required local match and \$86,000 short to replace preemption devices at 46 intersections.

Staff proposes to transfer \$25,000 from P-429 Traffic Signal Replacement/Upgrade and \$61,000 from Playa Vista Mitigation Funds, total \$86,000 to sufficiently fund the project.

The Playa Vista mitigation funds account has \$1,387,597. It is appropriate to use this funding as a local match as many of the intersections are on Sepulveda Boulevard.

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ATTACHMENT:

- List of intersections to receive replacement traffic signal preemption devices

MOTIONS:

That the Council:

1. Approve the purchase of Traffic Signal Preemption Devices for 46 intersections;
2. Authorize a budget amendment to appropriate Traffic Signal Replacement/Upgrade Project, (P-429) funds in the amount of \$25,000 to the Project and transfer \$25,000 to project expenditure line item 4201008.720100 Preemption Upgrade Project,;
3. Authorize a budget amendment to appropriate Playa Vista Mitigation Funds in the amount of \$61,000 to the Project and transfer \$61,000 to project expenditure line item 42001008.720100; and
4. Authorize a budget amendment to increase the grant portion of the project by \$5,000 to a total of \$105,000 in line 423001008.720100