

City of La Quinta

CITY COUNCIL MEETING: August 4, 2015

STAFF REPORT

AGENDA TITLE: RATIFY GRANT APPLICATION SUBMISSION TO CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION HIGHWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUNDING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015/16

RECOMMENDATION

Ratify grant application submission to the California Department of Transportation for the Highway Safety Improvement Program funding for Fiscal Year 2015/16.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) offers grants for improvements that reduce serious and fatal injuries on public roads.
- The City submitted two applications for a total of \$3,231,400, with a total matching funds requirement of \$126,100; Measure A funds can be used.
- The proposed traffic safety projects include upgrades to certain intersections to improve lighting, signal timing and signal coordination.
- Since these improvements can be made at minimal cost to the City, staff recommends ratification of the grant applications, which were due in July 2015.

FISCAL IMPACT

The \$126,100 of matching funds is not included in the 2015/16 budget. However, if the HSIP grant is awarded, staff will recommend that the Council appropriate Measure A funds to achieve the matching obligation.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

HSIP grants are used to improve traffic safety by funding street and signal improvements that reduce serious injury or fatal traffic accidents. Proposals are ranked by quantifying the expected traffic accident reduction versus the cost of the improvement. After a detailed, data-driven safety evaluation, staff recommends two separate, but equally important projects.

The first would upgrade La Quinta's traffic signal interconnect network to fiber optic. This will create a more robust and reliable network than the current system, which is a mixture of both wireless and copper wire communication systems between the controllers at the signalized intersections. This project will also improve signal coordination, which is sometimes compromised by trees and other obstructions to the existing wireless system or by the slower transmission speed and reduced data transmission capacity of copper wire versus fiber optic lines. This application qualifies for

100 percent reimbursement; HSIP funding would cover the total \$1,971,000 project cost, including all engineering and other professional costs (with no required match).

The second project would upgrade all intersections with light-emitting diode (LED) safety lights and street name signs. This will improve visibility and help reduce collisions at night. In addition, the improvements will include upgrading the remaining out of date traffic signal cabinets and signal controllers that would improve system reliability and traffic circulation. These improvements are estimated to cost \$1,260,400, and qualify for 90 percent reimbursement totaling \$1,134,300. The City must provide a 10 percent match of \$126,100.

Both grant applications are available for review in the Public Works Department.

ALTERNATIVES

There is no application cost for this grant and, if successful, the City will make important traffic safety improvements at minimal cost. Therefore, staff does not recommend an alternative.

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Public Works Director/City Engineer