



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL DATE: MARCH 16, 2021

FROM: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT WARD: 2

SUBJECT: REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA FOR TRAFFIC SIGNAL INSTALLATION AT WATKINS DRIVE AND BIG SPRINGS ROAD IN THE ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$320,000

ISSUE:

Approval of a Reimbursement Agreement between the City of Riverside Public Works Department and the Regents of the University of California confirming that UCR will reimburse the City of Riverside for all construction costs related to installation of a traffic signal at the intersection of Watkins Drive and Big Springs Road as outlined in Section 3 of the agreement.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council:

1. Approve a Reimbursement Agreement with the Regents of the University of California Riverside for Traffic Signal Installation at Watkins Drive and Big Springs Road in the estimated amount of \$320,000; and
2. Authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to execute the Reimbursement Agreement, including making any minor and non-substantive changes.

BACKGROUND:

The University of California Riverside (UCR) is a renowned, leading research and higher educational institution located within the City of Riverside. The University serves a vital role in our communities by fostering the City's commitment to higher learning, workforce development, technological and economic growth, as well as research and endeavors aimed at advancements in the area of environmental stewardship. Expansion of the UCR campus and facilities continues as construction of an approximately 1,200 space parking structure is planned for the main campus which will be accessible via the University's Big Spring Road entrance/exit. Additional traffic utilizing the intersection of Watkins Drive and Big Springs Road for access to the new parking structure necessitates installation of a traffic signal at the intersection to improve traffic operations.

DISCUSSION:

The City has partnered with UCR to design, administer, and construct a new traffic signal at the intersection of Watkins Drive and Big Springs Road. Due to the planned UCR parking structure project, which will ultimately be accessed via the Big Springs Road entrance / exit for the campus, UCR has agreed to fund all construction costs associated with the traffic signal installation project. Initial traffic signal project costs are estimated at \$320,000. The installation of the signal at Watkins Drive at Big Springs Road will not require the removal of stop signs at nearby intersections.

The City will be responsible for obtaining, performing, and providing all aspects of the work required for completion of the traffic signal project as outlined in Section 1 of the agreement.

City Defined Responsibilities:

- Traffic signal plan design;
- Pot holing and utility coordination;
- Contract administration;
- Entitlements including applicable CEQA documentation;
- Bidding/hiring of any contractors;
- Management of any contractors;
- Liability for installation of the traffic signal and its associated improvements;
- Public Works inspection of the signal;
- Traffic signal maintenance staff for traffic signal turn-on; and
- Any and all other actions required to obtain, perform, or provide all aspects of the work.

Per the reimbursement agreement, within 30 days of receiving a letter from the City documenting bidding results, UCR shall concur with bid results by depositing funds with the City in the amount of the accepted bid plus ten percent (10%) contingency for construction costs. If UCR does not concur with bid results, the City shall rebid the project. The City shall fund entitlements, including applicable CEQA documentation if any and shall within 30 days of the City's acceptance of the work as completed remit any unused balance to UCR which shall not be increased beyond the amount described in the bidding results letter without a signed agreement in writing by the City and UCR.

FISCAL IMPACT:

As UCR has committed to reimbursement of all actual construction costs associated with the installation of the proposed new traffic signal at the intersection of Watkins Drive and Big Springs Road, project costs incurred by the City would include staff time related to drafting the required traffic signal plan, completion of the bid process, management of the project and required documentation, inspection activities, and signal maintenance and turn-on activities, which are nominal in relation to UCR funded project construction costs. Though the agreement establishes that the City is responsible for any applicable permit, entitlement, and related CEQA costs, it is anticipated that the project will be exempt from CEQA and that there will be no permitting or entitlement costs incurred.

Prepared by: Kris Martinez, Public Works Director
Certified as to
availability of funds: Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer
Approved by: Rafael Guzman, Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form: Kristi J. Smith, Interim City Attorney

Attachment: Reimbursement Agreement