



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL **DATE: OCTOBER 1, 2019**

FROM: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT **WARDS: ALL**

SUBJECT: OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$117,800 FOR EQUIPMENT UPGRADES TO SELECT SCHOOL CROSSINGS – SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION

ISSUE:

Accept grant funding in the amount of \$117,800 from the Office of Traffic Safety Grant Program for the purchase of equipment to upgrade select school crossings, the printing of educational materials, and the purchase of bicycle and pedestrian safety equipment.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council:

1. Approve the acceptance of grant funding in the amount of \$117,800 from the Office of Traffic Safety for the purchase of equipment to upgrade select school crossings, the printing of educational materials, and the purchase of bicycle and pedestrian safety equipment;
2. Authorize an increase in revenue in the amount of \$117,800 to the Office of Traffic Safety Grant School Crossing Equipment Upgrades Revenue Account #9908500-331300 and appropriate expenditures in the same amount to the Office of Traffic Safety Grant School Crossing Equipment Upgrades account #9908500-440120; and.
3. Authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to execute the Office of Traffic Safety Grant Agreement and any related grant documents, including making minor and non-substantive changes.

BACKGROUND:

The Public Works Department actively pursues grant funding as an alternative funding source and/or supplement to City funds to enable the purchase of equipment or completion of improvement projects aimed at improving traffic safety and operations citywide. Grants offer valuable, unique opportunities for local jurisdictions to compete for funding pools available through State, Federal, or other agencies to aid in covering the costs of select projects.

DISCUSSION:

The Public Works Department recently prepared and submitted a grant proposal to the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) in pursuit of grant funding to provide equipment for upgrading existing school crossings at 12 locations aimed at heightening driver awareness of crossing activity and improving motorist yield and stop compliance to enhance safety for pedestrians and cyclists crossing on their routes to school and to and from destinations within the neighboring communities. The City has been approved to receive up to a total of \$117,800 to purchase the crossing upgrade equipment, educational materials, and pedestrian and bicyclist safety equipment.

Equipment at 11 existing uncontrolled school crosswalks will be upgraded from traditional pedestrian crossing warning signs to solar powered Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) devices. These devices offer a pedestrian push button activated illuminated flashing light panel mounted along with the pedestrian signs to provide added warning to drivers of crossing activity. The flashing yellow lights enhance driver awareness of pedestrian and cyclist crossings and increase yield compliance rates ultimately improving safety. Additionally, existing northbound and southbound stop signs at one multi-way stop controlled school crossing will be upgraded to LED edge lit flashing stop signs to improve stop compliance and safety at this crossing. All equipment will be installed and maintained by Public Works Department staff.

Funding received for educational materials covers the printing costs for materials prepared by the Public Works Department for distribution at school and other community safety or neighborhood events. Bicycle and pedestrian safety equipment funding is utilized to purchase small safety equipment such as reflective bands or zipper pulls which are effective in making pedestrians and cyclists more visible to motorists. Safety equipment is provided to students along with education brochures and information during scheduled school safety events.

These OTS grant funds will provide important, lasting improvements which support our shared goals of improving safety for all pedestrians and cyclists and enhancing protective measures on routes to school to ensure students get to and from school safely.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact of this action is an increase in revenue in the amount of \$117,800 to the Office of Traffic Safety Grant School Crossing Equipment Upgrades Revenue Account #9908500-331300. All grant funds will be appropriated into the Office of Traffic Safety Grant School Crossing Equipment Upgrades Expenditure Account #9908500-440120 for the purchase of crossing upgrade equipment, educational materials and pedestrian and bicyclist safety equipment.

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: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachments:

1. Agreement
2. Proposed RRFB Location Map
3. Proposed Flashing Stop Sign Location Map