



March 27, 2007

<p>AGENDA ITEM NO.</p> <p><u>COUNCIL MEETING</u></p> <p>APPROVED BY _____</p> <p>DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR _____</p> <p>CITY MANAGER _____</p>
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FROM: JON R. RUIZ, Interim Director
Public Works Department

BY: SCOTT L. MOZIER, PE, Assistant Director
Public Works Department, Engineering Division

SUBJECT: ADOPT A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM THE CALTRANS LOCAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – HIGHWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS

KEY RESULT AREA

Public Safety

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the submission of applications for grant funds from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Local Assistance Program – Highway Safety Improvement Program and authorizing the execution of documents by the Public Works Director.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) provides grant funds to implement safety improvements on public roads, public surface transportation facilities, publicly owned bicycle or pedestrian trails, and for traffic calming measures. The program is administered through Caltrans and the primary objective is to eliminate or reduce the number and severity of traffic accidents. The Department of Public Works will submit application proposals to the HSIP program to help fund significant traffic safety improvements for the City of Fresno. The grant applications are due April 13, 2007. Staff proposes to submit applications for removal of the valley gutter at the intersection of Cedar Avenue and Barstow Avenue; and for installation of left turn phasing at the intersection of Clinton and West Avenue.

KEY OBJECTIVE BALANCE

The resolution balances the three Key Objectives of Customer Satisfaction, Employee Satisfaction and prudent Financial Management. Customer Satisfaction is achieved by improving public transportation facilities at locations where significant traffic safety improvements would be implemented. Employee Satisfaction is achieved by planning, designing and implementing traffic

safety improvements to reduce the number of accidents or risks to local residents. Prudent Financial Management is achieved by utilizing grant funds to facilitate improvements of public transportation facilities to benefit the City.

BACKGROUND

The Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) replaces the former Hazard Elimination Safety Program (HES) and provides funds to projects which implements safety improvements on public roads, public surface transportation facilities, publicly owned bicycle or pedestrian trails, and for traffic calming measures. The program serves to eliminate or reduce the number and severity of traffic accidents. The competitive grants are awarded to eligible local agencies by Caltrans on an annual basis. The amount of the federal-aid highway safety funds available for the HSIP program in the 2006/2007 Federal Fiscal Year is approximately \$27 million. The HSIP program provides funding for the following improvements:

- Roadway illumination
- Breakaway utility poles
- Traffic signs
- Upgrade median barrier
- Remove obstacles
- New traffic signals
- New median barrier
- New or upgraded guardrail
- Impact attenuators
- Upgrade traffic signals
- Sight distance improvements
- Median for traffic separation
- Groove pavement for skid treatment
- Traffic channelization
- Pavement markings and delineation
- Widen or improve shoulder
- Flatten side slopes
- Realign roadway
- Overlay for skid treatment
- Emergency vehicle priority systems
- Bicycle/pedestrian improvements
- Public transportation facility
- Traffic calming
- Red light running detection system
- In-pavement crosswalk lights

The Department of Public Works has utilized the assessments of traffic studies to determine the strongest candidate projects to compete for the statewide safety improvement funds. These locations exhibit a significant number of accident rates, increased traffic volumes and/or hazardous conditions. In addition, proposed projects are significantly influenced by the capacity to meet the HSIP guidelines and requirements for competitive funds. The Department of Public Works proposes to seek funding for the following projects:

- 1) Removal of the Valley Gutter at Cedar Avenue and Barstow Avenue
- 2) Left Turn Phasing Traffic Signal Upgrade at Clinton Avenue and West Avenue

The removal of the valley gutter is located on the east side at Cedar Avenue and Barstow Avenue crossing the eastern segment of Barstow Avenue. The street undulation has been a source for numerous vehicle skids, road bumps and vehicle accidents. The street improvements will significantly improve safety for city residents and for the university. The project lies partially within the California State University of Fresno (CSUF) right-of-way and CSUF will provide half of the required local match for the project if awarded HSIP program funds.

The installation of a Left Turn Phasing Signal at Clinton Avenue and West Avenue will provide a significant traffic safety improvement. In the past 3 years there have been 17 vehicle collisions recorded and the location ranks 1st on the Priority Ranking Worksheet for Fiscal Year 2007 Left Turn Signals which ranks intersections on the basis of specific traffic conditions. In addition, the Department of Public Works has acquired leveraging funds from the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) in the amount of \$562,505 to help implement the traffic safety improvements for Clinton Avenue and West Avenue. The proposal requests additional funds from the HSIP program to compensate for additional project costs.

The current HSIP program gives priority funding to projects which can be designed and advertised for construction prior to October 1, 2007. Caltrans will release an approved list of projects by May 15, 2007.

FISCAL IMPACT

The maximum Federal reimbursement for HSIP projects is 90%. A minimum 10% local match is required for awarded grants. CSUF will be contributing half of the local match required for the removal of the Valley Gutter at Cedar Avenue and Barstow Avenue. The Department of Public Works has acquired leveraging funds from the CMAQ program for the Left Turn Phasing Signal Upgrade at Clinton Avenue and West Avenue. If necessary, additional local match funds required will be utilized from Traffic Signal Mitigation Impact Fees.

JRR/SLM/MAG/eam
Adopt Reso Authorizing Submission Appl Grant HSIP 3-27-07

Attachment: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FRESNO, APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR AND ACCEPTANCE OF FY 2006-2007 CALTRANS LOCAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – HIGHWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM GRANT FUNDS AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS

WHEREAS, Highway Safety Improvement Program provides grant funds to eligible local agencies for the purpose of safety improvements on public roads, public surface transportation facilities, publicly owned bicycle or pedestrian trails, and for traffic calming measures; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Transportation administers the grant program and has requested applications from eligible agencies for the 2006-2007 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the applicant's governing body certifies by resolution approval of the application and program participation and the availability of the required minimum 10% match; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fresno will enter into an agreement with the State of California for development of the Project; and

WHEREAS, the City has FY 2006-2007 appropriations available to meet the program matching requirements.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FRESNO HEREBY:

SECTION 1. Approves the application for and acceptance of grant funding from the FY 2006-2007 Highway Safety Improvement Program for the Projects and participation therein, consistent with constitutional and local law requirements and this resolution; and

SECTION 2. Certifies, consistent with constitutional and local law requirements and this resolution that the City has or will have sufficient funds to provide the 10% match and to operate and maintain the Project; and

SECTION 3. Certifies that the City has reviewed, understands and, to the extent consistent with all constitutional and local law requirements and this resolution, agrees to the provisions contained in the application and program guidelines, manual and related documents; and

SECTION 4. Appoints and authorizes the Department of Public Works Director as the agent for the City of Fresno to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, payment requests and so on which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned Project, subject to prior approval as to form by the City Attorney's Office.

CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF FRESNO) ss.
CITY OF FRESNO)

I, REBECCA E. KLISCH, City Clerk of the City of Fresno, certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Council of the City of Fresno, California, at a regular meeting thereof, held on the _____ day of _____, 2007.

REBECCA E. KLISCH
City Clerk

By _____
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

JAMES C. SANCHEZ
City Attorney

By  _____
Deputy