



Request for City Council Committee Action From the Department of Public Works

Date: July 10, 2007
To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee
Referral to: Honorable Paul Ostrow, Chair Ways & Means/Budget Committee
Subject: 2007 SAFETEA-LU New Freedom Program (2006-2007)

Recommendation:

Authorization to submit an application for federal Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) New Freedom funds passed through the state.

Previous Directives:

Prepared by: Nickolas VanGunst, P.E.,PTOE, Professional Engineer, 673-2172
John Wertjes, P.E., PTOE, Director, Traffic and Parking Services, 673-2614

Approved by:

Steven A. Kotke, P.E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

Presenters: Don Sobania, P.E., Traffic and Parking Services 673-2743

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|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Permanent Review Committee (PRC) | Approval _____ | Not applicable | <u> X </u> |
| Policy review Group (PRG) | Approval _____ | Not applicable | <u> X </u> |

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

- No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget (If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget
- Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase
- Action requires use of contingency or reserves
- Business Plan: Action is within the plan. Action requires a change to plan.
- Other financial impact (Explain): Future funding for operation and maintenance is required plus matching funds
- Request provided to department's Finance Dept. contact when provided to the Committee Coordinator

Community Impact

Neighborhood Notification: Not Applicable
City Goals: Maintain the physical infrastructure to ensure a healthy, vital and safe city
Comprehensive Plan: Not Applicable
Zoning Code: Not Applicable

Background/Supporting Information

The New Freedom Program was just established last year and the funds were available to the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area as of this year. The total amount available to the region is \$1.03 million. The New Freedom program purpose is to provide additional tools for Americans with disabilities trying to overcome barriers in their integration into the work force and their full participation in society. New Freedom solicitation will occur biannually and previously selected projects are not guaranteed funding.

The City will prepare an application for 2007 federal SAFETEA-LU New Freedom funds in response to the current Metropolitan Council solicitation for 2006 and 2007 funds. This request includes a summary of the eligible project areas, a brief description of city projects, estimated costs, and the SAFETEA-LU New Freedom submission amounts. Each project requires a 20% local match for construction plus the costs for design and engineering. These applications will maximize the use of federal funding.

Accessible Pedestrian Signals (\$100,000) - This Project involves the installation and evaluation of accessible pedestrian signals (APS). In recent years, the application of APS has been an issue that the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) has been struggling with. As of November 2005, the US Access Board established a draft Public Rights-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines which includes guidelines on when to use APS. Until these draft guidelines are adopted by the US Department of Justice and the USDOT, it is up to each public agency's discretion on when to use APS. As a pro-active approach, the City has formed a task force with several ADA organizations within the City to help Public Works develop guidelines for the APS installation. These guidelines will evaluate individual crosswalks at signalized intersections to determine if an APS is needed. The City is applying for the New Freedom funds to help start an APS pilot program. This program will involve the installation of APS at approximately 35 crosswalks. The locations will depend on the need of an APS as based on the guidelines. This program will also evaluate the effectiveness of the installed APS to ensure that the guidelines are correct and are meeting the visually impaired community's needs.

Cc: Don Elwood, Public Works
Grants and Special Projects