



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

Date: October 14, 2008

To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee

Referral to: Honorable Paul Ostrow, Chair Ways & Means Committee

Subject: **2008 SAFETEA-LU New Freedom Program (2008-2009)**

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:

Resolution 2007R-630 Accessible Pedestrian Signals

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Approved by:

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

Reviews

Permanent Review Committee (PRC):	Approval	NA	Date
Civil Rights Affirmative Action Plan	Approval	NA	Date
Policy Review Group (PRG):	Approval	NA	Date

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 operations 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 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. The City applied for and received \$125,000 in 2007 to install accessible pedestrian signals (APS) at 34 crosswalks that are along transit routes. This existing project has begun and field implementation will occur in 2009. Public Works recommends continuing this effort by applying for an additional \$150,000 in New Freedom funds.

Next Round of New Freedom Funding and Process

Public Works will prepare an application for 2008 federal SAFETEA-LU New Freedom funds in response to the current Metropolitan Council solicitation for 2008/2009 funds. The tentative schedule is local selection process will occur in December 2008 and FTA approval will occur in early 2009. This would then lead to City and FTA executed agreements later in 2009 and implementation in 2010.

These federal funds require a 20% local match for construction plus the costs for design and engineering. To meet the city funding match, Public Works will follow the City's annual budgeting CIP funding cycle and identify year 2010 funding.

Accessible Pedestrian Signals (\$150,000)

The proposed project will involve installing APS at about 40 crosswalks along transit routes. APS will be installed at crosswalks that meet the criteria of the City's adopted Guidelines for APS installations. Both the current and proposed projects will help with providing equal access for visually impaired and deaf individuals at locations that are difficult to cross.

Cc: Don Elwood, Public Works
Grants and Special Projects