

DATE ISSUED: March 3, 2010

REPORT NO: 10-026

ATTENTION: Public Safety & Neighborhood Services Committee
Meeting of March 10, 2010

SUBJECT: Install Traffic Signals at Arosa Street and College Avenue and at Adams Avenue and College Avenue.

REQUESTED ACTIONS: Authorize the establishment of a CIP to install traffic signals at Arosa Street and College Avenue and at Adams Avenue and College Avenue.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Approve the requested action.

SUMMARY:

The installation of two signals would improve the flow of traffic, relieve congestion on commercial and residential streets located within the College Community Planning Area and otherwise enhance the quality of pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular mobility. The Crossroads Redevelopment Agency has authorized the funds to install the two traffic signals.

DISCUSSION:

The California Department of Transportation has criteria for the installation of traffic signals for use throughout the State. City engineers determined that the intersection of Arosa Street and College Avenue met the requirements for signalization. Subsequently, \$25,000 was secured for design of the traffic signal. Design was completed in 2008, however at that time no funding was available for construction.

In 2009, at the request of several community organizations, the City evaluated the intersection of Adams Avenue and College Avenue for signalization. This location also met the requirements. Input from several community meetings is that both traffic signals be constructed simultaneously to avoid possible problems with cut-through traffic if only the Arosa Street traffic signal were to be installed. A new Capital Improvement Project needs to be created for this location.

The installation of these two signals would improve the flow of traffic, relieve congestion on commercial and residential streets located within the College Area Community Planning Area and the Crossroads Redevelopment Project Area and otherwise enhance the quality of pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular mobility, which support the vitality, safety and viability of the area. This improvement is consistent with the City General Plan and College Area Community Plan.

FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The total estimated cost to complete the construction of the traffic signal at Arosa Street and College Ave. and the design and construction of the traffic signal at Adams Ave. and College is \$450,000. The proposed funding and related Redevelopment Agency actions associated with this project are proposed to be presented to Council and the Redevelopment Agency for its consideration on April 13, 2010.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL and/or COMMITTEE ACTIONS: None

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION & PUBLIC OUTREACH EFFORTS:

On February 25, 2010, the Crossroads Redevelopment Project Area Committee voted 5-1-1 to recommend funding not to exceed \$450,000 for concurrent construction of the two traffic signals along College Avenue.

On January 13th, 2010, the College Area Community Planning Board (CACPB) voted 15-0-0 to approve the proposed traffic signals at College Avenue & Adams Avenue and College Avenue and Arosa Drive intersections with the conditions that both lights be installed simultaneously and that the CACPB review the traffic impacts on Soria Drive six months after installation.

After the installation of the two signals the City will evaluate whether there has been a negative impact on Soria Drive due to the Arosa Street traffic signal and recommend measures as appropriate to mitigate the impacts.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS and PROJECT IMPACTS:

Key stakeholders are the members of the College Avenue Baptist Church, College Avenue Older Adult Center, Beth Jacob Congregation, Beth Jacob Apartments, Bethel Seminary and the residents of the El Cerrito neighborhood.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Boekamp
Director

David Jarrell
Deputy Chief, Public Works