

DATE ISSUED: May 1, 2002

REPORT NO. 02-091

ATTENTION: Honorable Mayor and City Council
Docket of May 7, 2002

SUBJECT: Hazard Elimination Safety Grant Application

REFERENCE: None

SUMMARY

Issue - Should the City Manager apply for Hazard Elimination Safety Grant funding for the projects listed?

Manager's Recommendation - Authorize the grant application.

Other Recommendation - None.

Fiscal Impact - If the grant application is approved, the grant will pay for 90% of the project cost. Matching funds will be programmed in the Fiscal Year 2004 Capital Improvements Program budget. The maximum amount that would be received from this grant, if all four intersections are approved for grant funding, would be \$453,600. The maximum amount of matching funds required from the Fiscal Year 2004 Capital Improvements Program budget would be \$50,400.

BACKGROUND

The Hazard Elimination Safety (HES) Program provides federal funds for safety improvements on public roads. The following transportation categories, based on Federal Highway Administration criteria, are eligible for funding:

- Roadway illumination
- Relocated or breakaway utility poles
- Traffic signs
- Upgrade median barriers
- Remove obstacles
- New traffic signals
- New median barrier
- New or upgraded guardrail
- Impact attenuator
- Upgrade traffic signalsSight distance improvement
- 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

These funds serve to eliminate or reduce the number and severity of traffic accidents at locations selected for improvement. For a project to be eligible for HES funds, a specific safety problem must be identified for correction and the project must correct or substantially improve the condition. The criteria for transportation projects is based on fatalities, injuries and traffic volume. Projects submitted by local agencies will compete statewide for available funds; therefore, staff evaluated projects that would be competitive based on traffic accident history. Four proposed traffic signal locations were identified that were deemed to be competitive in a statewide review. Other transportation categories were evaluated, but were not deemed to be competitive based on statewide competition. The City has been awarded HES funding in previous years for traffic signals for Carroll Canyon Road at Nancy Ridge Drive (2000), and University Avenue at Van Dyke Avenue (2001).

DISCUSSION

The HES Program is a federally funded program as part of the Transportation Efficiency Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) of 1998. CalTrans solicits candidate HES projects from local agencies on an annual basis. The projects are normally solicited about two years in advance of the federal fiscal year (FFY) for which they will be programmed for funding. After all the candidate projects have been checked, reviewed and prioritized, CalTrans releases an approved list of projects that constitute an HES Program Plan for a specific FFY.

Staff reviewed the list of traffic signals that had meet warrants and qualified under Council Policy No. 200-06 (CRITERIA FOR INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC SIGNALS). A total of 87 candidate traffic signals were evaluated under that Safety Index criteria that is part of the application process. The Safety Index is a statewide calculation utilizing traffic accident records to determine a safety index rating for statewide ranking for competition of funds. The following locations were determined to be eligible to compete for HES funding based on the Safety Index criteria.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Council District</u>	<u>Community</u>
Calle Del Oro at La Jolla Shores Drive	1	La Jolla
Normal Street at University Avenue	3	Uptown
Market Street at Merlin Drive	4	Encanto
Convoy Street at Raytheon Road	6	Kearny Mesa

CONCLUSION

This is an opportunity to obtain money to assist in the construction of traffic signals within the City. These four locations meet the screening criteria established under the grant guidelines to compete statewide for funding under the HES Program. It is recommended that the above locations be submitted to compete for grant funding.

ALTERNATIVE

Do not apply for HES Program grant funding. This is not recommended as this is an opportunity to compete for federal funding for City traffic signal projects.

Respectfully submitted, D. Cruz Gonzalez Director, Transportation		Approved: George I. Loveland
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