



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE ISSUED: November 7, 2007 REPORT NO:07-183
ATTENTION: Council President and City Council
Agenda of November 13, 2007
SUBJECT: Red Light Photo Enforcement Program
REFERENCE: City Manager's Report Nos. 96-08, 96-136, 98-114, 02-203, 02-282,
04-056, 06-093

REQUESTED ACTION:

- 1) Approve the selection of American Traffic Solutions as the vendor for the Red Light Photo Enforcement program and approve the new contract, not to exceed \$4,500,000 for the three years plus two option years to renew, authorize the Auditor and Comptroller to expend in FY08 \$365,000.
- 2) Approve \$65,000 for the existing photo enforcement vendor, ACS, to complete work on the existing contract.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends: 1) selection of American Traffic Solutions Inc. as the vendor for the Red Light Photo Enforcement program and approval of a new contract; and 2) approve funds up to \$65,000 for the existing red light photo enforcement vendor to complete work on the existing contract.

SUMMARY:

The purpose of the Red Light Photo Enforcement Program (RLPE) is to prevent red light violations and reduce the possibility of collisions that may result from running red lights by modifying driver behavior. The current RLPE program has operated for over four years. Accident data analysis indicates that the number of accidents and violations attributable to red light running is trending downward since the inception of the program. For the first full three years of the program when we had a 0.5 second grace period, we had not seen a reduction in red light violations. However, we did see a 17% decline in red light running accidents at the eight existing red light photo locations and a 9% reduction citywide. Since the reduction of the grace period to a 0.1 second inherent delay in August of 2006, we have seen a 4% reduction in red light violations at the existing red light photo locations. In addition, red light running accidents have declined 62% at the existing red light photo locations and 12% citywide. Based upon the

effectiveness of this method of enforcement, it is recommended that the City continue to utilize the program as just one tool to improve roadway safety.

The existing Red Light Photo Enforcement contract expires December 2007. Specifications were developed and the Purchasing Department produced and managed the Request for Proposals for the service. American Traffic Solutions Inc. was selected as the best able to support the needs of the City.

The terms of the agreement will be for three years plus two option years to renew. The City will pay ATS a fixed monthly fee of \$ 3,750 per site, per month, for installation and operation of the first 12 sites. The fixed monthly fee will be \$5,195 per site, for all additional sites. The contract also includes the option of relocating a site for \$50,000. The equipment at ten existing sites will be transitioned to the new vendor plus installing approximately five additional new sites. We anticipate minimal interruption in service between contracts.

In addition, we are requesting authorization to exceed the FY'08 expenditure limit for the current contract by \$65,000. The expenditure in each of the five calendar years of the current contract was estimated in 2002 to be \$1,300,000. In this fifth year of the contract, the majority of the expenditures have occurred in the later part of the year. Although we are not exceeding the original annual expenditure estimate of \$1,300,000, the majority of the expenditures have occurred in FY'08.

FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The cost of the contract over five years is \$4,500,000.

The cost of the RLPE program in FY'08, including contract costs and city staff is \$1,670,000. The cost of the program is offset by revenue received from citations.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL and/or COMMITTEE ACTION:

On September 17, 2002, Council authorized the reinstatement of the Red Light Photo Enforcement (RLPE) Program. As part of the reinstatement of the program, Council directed staff to use a minimum red light "grace period" of 0.5 seconds before a citation is issued to the registered owner who failed to stop at a red light. On July 12, 2006, Council authorized the reduction of the 0.5 second grace period to the 0.1 second inherent delay.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH EFFORTS:

A RLPE Program web page has been posted on the City of San Diego's web site. The web page describes the program, contains a short video explaining how the program operates, and includes the proposed intersections for photo enforcement. Proposed intersections are posted on the City's website for at least thirty days prior to final decision making, to allow for public comment. In addition, letters are sent to the local community planning group for input. Engineering staff respond to any questions from the public generated through the website.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND PROJECTED IMPACTS:

Vehicle drivers that run a red light will be impacted (receive a citation). Traffic accidents as a result of running red lights will be reduced, increasing motorist, pedestrian, and bicycle safety.



Originating Department



Deputy Chief/Chief Operating Officer



Chief of Police