

# Agenda Report

March 21, 2011

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Department of Transportation

**SUBJECT:** Execution of Memorandum of Understanding with Los Angeles County (LACO) for Design and Construction of the San Gabriel/Sierra Madre Traffic Signal Synchronization Program Project (TSSP).

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that, on February 2009, the project proposed herein was found to be categorically exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines in Section 15301 (c), Existing Facilities, of the California Code Regulations Title 14, Chapter 3.
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Los Angeles County for engineering design and construction of the Traffic Signal and Synchronization Program (TSSP) projects along Sierra Madre and San Gabriel Boulevards, with the City's participation not to exceed \$230,000.

## **BACKGROUND:**

As part of the Metro 2001 Call for Projects, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (LACO DPW) received funds for traffic signal and synchronization upgrades on San Gabriel Boulevard from California Boulevard to the north city limits as well as all signals along Sierra Madre Boulevard from the 210 freeway to Michillinda Avenue project was created in the FY 2001 Capital Improvement Program for this signal work has been included in all CIP budgets to date.

The City of Pasadena entered into City Agreement 19,705 with Los Angeles County (effective February 11, 2009) to participate in the implementation of the LACO DPW Traffic Signal Synchronization Program that included the San Gabriel/Sierra Madre corridors.

LACO TSSP projects have previously been fully funded and implemented by LACO DPW. However, the current budget climate caused the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in late 2010 to require all involved agencies to participate in TSSP projects. Subsequent to this change in County policy, LACO DPW requested that the City of Pasadena contribute \$230,000 for the City of Pasadena share of the \$985,580 project that now extends to Huntington Drive in the City of San Marino.

The portion of the project that is in the City of Pasadena represents roughly 90% of the overall project length and roughly 95% of the signals involved in the project are in the City of Pasadena. The TSSP for the San Gabriel/Sierra Madre corridors will provide necessary traffic signal upgrades as well as traffic signal synchronization along the corridors and, as such, represents an investment in the corridor that the City would otherwise have to make as part of the Mobility Corridor Improvements project (75904) in the FY 2011-2015 CIP. No monies have been appropriated into CIP 75904 for the San Gabriel/Sierra Madre corridors. Use of the LACO DPW project, even with the requested City participation, is a less expensive method of accomplishing the signal improvements than solely using City of Pasadena funds to construct the improvements.

#### **COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:**

As noted in the adoption of the FY 2001 CIP, this project is consistent with the Mobility Element in increasing safety for motorists using heavily traveled mobility corridors. It will also improve the circulation within the East Pasadena Specific Plan area.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:**

In late 2008, the LACO DPW filed all appropriate environmental documentation necessary to determine that the project is categorically exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines in Section 15301 (c), Existing Facilities, of the California Code Regulations Title 14, Chapter 3. This exemption includes minor alterations involving negligible expansion of use beyond that previously existing. A notice of Exemption for the project was filed at the Los Angeles County Clerk offices in late 2008 complying with all regulations set forth by the Federal Highway Administration. In addition, there are no changed circumstances or new information which would require further environmental review.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works has requested that the City of Pasadena enter into an MOU agreement to provide for the amount of \$230,000 for the completion of the San Gabriel Boulevard/Sierra Madre Boulevard TSSP project portion within the City of Pasadena. This \$230,000 match has been identified and appropriated in the following manner:

- \$200,000 moved from Transportation Impact Fees, and
- \$ 30,000 moved from Commercial Development fees

On February 29, 2011, the above amounts were transferred to Budget Account Number 75041 under "San Gabriel/Sierra Madre Boulevard Traffic Signal Synchronization Program" as identified in the City's Capital Improvement Program FY 2011 - 2015.

Respectfully submitted,



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FREDERICK C. DOCK

Director

Department of Transportation

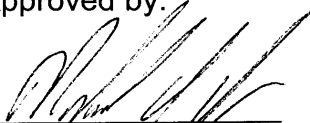
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