



CITY OF COMMERCE AGENDA REPORT

TO: Measure AA Advisory Committee **Item No.** _____

FROM: City Administrator

SUBJECT: Allocate \$105,000 for the Citywide Traffic Sign Replacement Project

MEETING DATE: May 8, 2018

RECOMMENDATION:

Allocate \$105,000 for installation costs related to the Citywide Traffic Sign Replacement Project.

BACKGROUND:

The United States Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has implemented guidelines for local agencies to upgrade their existing regulatory and warning traffic control signs to minimum levels of retro-reflectivity.

Per FHWA guidelines, by June 2014, local agencies (such as cities) are expected to implement an assessment to manage an inventory of their traffic control signs in order to determine minimum levels of retro-reflectivity.

Based on that inventory and assessment, cities were required to replace their worn, non-reflective signs, by January 2015. However, the date was extended to 2-½ years to 2018, and cities are now mandated to have their regulatory and warning signs upgraded. *See sheet 12 of Attachment 2.* The City of Commerce is adhering to these federal guidelines and is embarking to replace these worn, non-reflective regulatory and warning traffic control signs to the current levels of retro-reflectivity that are required per federal regulations.

The purpose of upgrading the retro-reflectivity levels of existing regulatory and warning traffic control signs is to provide critical information to drivers during times of reduced illumination, particularly at night.

FHWA highway statistics have shown that only twenty-five percent (25%) of vehicular travel occurs at night but accounts for at least fifty percent (50%) of all highway accidents. This nighttime crash rate is nearly three times that of the daytime crash rate. *See Attachment 2.*

Given the importance of displaying traffic control signs with adequate levels of retro-reflectivity, the FHWA has directed local agencies to upgrade their regulatory and warning signs by 2018.

With respect to these new guidelines, the City of Commerce seeks to replace its existing regulatory and warning traffic control signs, so as to be in compliance with FHWA and the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans') retro-reflectivity specifications.

ANALYSIS:

On June 21, 2016, the City Council approved the Citywide Sign Inventory and Retro-reflectivity Project as part of the fiscal year (FY) 2016-17 Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) program.

Using the "on-call" traffic engineering consultant list, staff subsequently procured the services of *Elie Farah, Inc.* on August 2016 at a cost of \$25,000 to undertake a citywide traffic control sign inventory and analysis.

Elie Farah subsequently submitted to staff its report (*see Attachment 3*) on the traffic control sign inventory on February 2017. The report outlined the requirements for retro-reflectivity, as well as an inventory of the traffic control signs throughout the City that are due for an upgrade to current acceptable retro-reflectivity standards, per FHWA and California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) guidelines. See *Attachment 4*.

Per the citywide traffic control sign inventory report, approximately 350 signs in the City are recommended to be replaced due to damage, wear and tear, fading, or lack of retro-reflectivity luminescence. The Engineer's estimate for this project is approximately \$105,000.

Based on this report, staff recommends that a public bid opening be undertaken to replace these damaged or worn-out regulatory and warning traffic control signs. On February 2018, *Elie Farah* developed contract bid documents that include specifications (i.e., bid package) to replace these traffic control signs. See *Attachment 1*.

Staff is requesting that \$105,000 be allocated from Measure AA funds in order to fund this project.

FISCAL IMPACT

The City Council approved on June 21, 2016 the Citywide Sign Inventory and Retro-reflectivity Project as part of the fiscal year (FY) 2016-17 Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) program.

The project is now ready for construction, and additional funds are required to fund both material and labor costs to install and replace the existing traffic control regulatory and

warning signs. New retro-reflective signs will be ordered, as well as the accompanying posts, brackets, and connectors that are necessary for the installation of these signs.

Per the Engineer's estimate, staff is requesting that an allocation of \$105,000 be made from Measure AA funds in order to fund this project.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve Staff Recommendation
2. Reject Staff Recommendation
3. Provide Staff with further direction

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Contract Bid Documents & Specifications (i.e. bid package)
2. FHWA's "Minimum Sign Retro-reflectivity Requirements" report
3. Citywide Sign Inventory and Retro-reflectivity report compiled by *Elie Farah, Inc.*
4. CA MUTCD Sections on Traffic Control Sign Illumination & Retro-reflectivity