



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: AUGUST 19, 2008

ITEM NUMBER:

SUBJECT: CONTRACT AWARD FOR RADAR SPEED SIGNS

DATE: AUGUST 7, 2008

FROM: PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT - TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIVISION

PRESENTATION BY: PETER NAGHAVI, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: RAJA SETHURAMAN, TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
MANAGER (714) 754-5032**

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Adopt the attached resolution (Attachment 1) authorizing the Public Services Director or his designee to execute a State Funded Projects Agreement and Supplement Agreement to receive California Safe Route to School (SR2S) Program funds.
2. Approve Professional Services Agreement with Fortel Traffic, Inc., 5310 E. Hunter Avenue, Anaheim, CA 92807, for 14 radar speed signs in the amount of \$180,600 (Attachment 2).
3. Authorize the City Manager to sign the Purchase Requisition to Fortel Traffic, Inc., in the amount of \$180,600 (Attachment 3).

BACKGROUND:

At the August 2003 Study Session, City Council received a demonstration of the "Vcalm" radar speed sign manufactured by Fortel Traffic, Inc., to display "real time" vehicle speeds to approaching motorists. The electronic speed display sign is a traffic calming device documented to reduce vehicular traffic speeds, particularly within residential and school areas. In February 2004, City Council approved guidelines (Attachment 4) for the installation of electronic speed display signs. The electronic speed signs mount on permanent poles and display "Speed Limit 25," and other variable messages including "Your Speed XX" when motorists approach exceeding the speed limit. The sign has the programming flexibility to display any speed limit and alternate messages such as "Slow Down."

In September 2004, Caltrans awarded the City a grant of \$86,130 through the Safe Route to School (SR2S) Program to install six (6) electronic speed display signs in the vicinity to Wilson and Whittier Schools. In September 2005, City Council awarded a contract to Fortel Traffic, Inc., to furnish and install the six speed radar display signs. The signs have been functioning in good order and provide the intended reductions in vehicle speeds.

In November 2007, the Transportation Services Division submitted a grant application to the State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to install various pedestrian safety amenities including radar speed display signs, flashing and high visibility crosswalks, pedestrian count-down signal heads and ADA pedestrian improvements adjacent to various school sites. In June 2008, Caltrans awarded to the City the grant providing 90 percent of project costs not to exceed \$513,450 through the Safe Route to School (SR2S) Program. The project includes installation of electronic speed display signs at the following six (6) school sites:

- ❖ Pomona & Rea Schools on Pomona Avenue and Hamilton Street – four (4) signs
- ❖ California & TeWinkle Schools on Gisler Avenue – two (2) signs
- ❖ Paularino School on Paularino Avenue – two (2) signs
- ❖ Victoria School on Victoria Street – two (2) signs
- ❖ Kaiser School on Santa Ana Avenue – two (2) signs
- ❖ Whittier School on Placentia Avenue – two (2) signs

The project was developed to improve public safety in areas where high volumes of children walk or bicycle to school. The radar speed signs and associated improvements within the school areas will contribute to a safer environment by increasing the vigilance of motorists near schools and by reminding drivers to reduce speeds.

ANALYSIS:

The California Department of Transportation requires all grant recipients to provide a certified authorizing resolution that clearly identifies the project and the official authorized to execute the agreement. The attached resolution (Attachment 1) would satisfy this requirement by authorizing the Public Services Director to execute a Master State Funded Projects Agreement and a Program Supplement Agreement to receive California Safe Routes to School (SR2S) Program funds.

The radar speed signs currently utilized by the City are manufactured by Fortel Traffic, Inc. The Fortel speed signs were initially selected due to their unique capability to display any array messages programmed at the City’s discretion. The signs are additionally equipped with the Traffic Data Acquisition System (TDAS), which counts vehicles and logs the peak and low vehicle speed. No other sign manufacturer provides this range of functionality. Due to these factors, and to maintain consistency with the City’s current operations and remote control sign software, this purchase is recommended as sole source to Fortel Traffic, Inc. The signed “Justification for Sole Source Request” is attached as “Exhibit 2A.”

The Transportation Services Division requested a bid from Fortel Traffic, Inc., to furnish and install fourteen (14) radar speed signs in proximity to the noted schools. The bid submitted by Fortel Traffic complies with the project specifications. The Fortel Traffic, Inc., product is also consistent with the City Council’s adopted Guidelines for “Installation of Electronic Speed Display Signs” (Attachment 4). The bid price of \$180,600 is reasonable for procurement and installation of fourteen (14) electronic radar speed signs for the specified functionality.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

One alternative would be to purchase the radar speed signs and install the signs by in-house staff; however, the work exceeds staff’s resources and time constraints. A second alternative would be to select another vendor; however, a radar speed sign provided by another manufacture would not provide the needed functionality and would not be compatible with the City’s existing sign software and communication controls. A third alternative would be to not undertake this project. This alternative would be counter to City Council-approved Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and will result in the City forfeiting the SR2S grant, and not achieving the intended public safety benefits.

FISCAL REVIEW:

Funding for the subject project was established in the 2008-2009 CIP Budget providing a total appropriation of \$570,500. The Safe Route to School (SR2S) grant covers 90 percent of project costs not to exceed \$513,450. The remaining 10 percent is covered by City-appropriated Air Quality Management District (AQMD) funds.

LEGAL REVIEW:

The City Attorney's office has reviewed the attached professional services agreement and resolution and has approved the documents relative to form.

CONCLUSION:

The City of Costa Mesa received a SR2S grant from the State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the amount of \$513,450. As part of this grant, the City will be installing fourteen (14) radar speed signs in the vicinity of six (6) schools.

It is recommended that the City Council adopt the attached resolution to fulfill the requirements of the SR2S program. It is also recommended that the City Council award the professional services contract to Fortel Traffic, Inc., in the amount of \$180,600, consistent with the City Council's "Guidelines for Installation of Electronic Speed Display Signs."

PETER NAGHAVI, Director
Department of Public Services

RAJA SETHURAMAN, Manager
Transportation Services

MARC R. PUCKETT
Director of Finance

DISTRIBUTION: City Manager
City Attorney
City Clerk
Director of Finance
Director of Public Services
Transportation Services Manager

ATTACHMENTS: 1- [Resolution of Authorization – Safe Route to School at 14 Schools Professional Services Agreement](#)
2- [Purchase Requisition](#)
3- [Guidelines for Installation of Electronic Speed Display Signs](#)
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