



# CITY OF LONG BEACH

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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December 7, 2004

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
City of Long Beach  
California

Subject: First Amendment to Agreement No. 26610 With the City of Lakewood Regarding the Transfer of Traffic Signal Maintenance and Operations Responsibilities at the Intersection of Pioneer Boulevard at Carson Street (District 5)

### DISCUSSION

The Department of Public Works has been working cooperatively with the City of Lakewood, the City of Hawaiian Gardens and Caltrans to facilitate and improve traffic flow on Carson Street in the vicinity of the Long Beach Towne Center.

There are five signalized intersections on Carson Street in the vicinity of the Long Beach Towne Center. Through agreements with the City of Lakewood and Caltrans, the City of Long Beach maintains four of the five traffic signals. The fifth traffic signal at the intersection of Carson Street and Pioneer Boulevard is located partially within the cities of Long Beach (12.5 percent), Lakewood (50 percent), and Hawaiian Gardens (37.5 percent). Through an agreement with the City of Lakewood, the County of Los Angeles currently operates and maintains the traffic signal at Pioneer Boulevard at Carson Street on behalf of all three cities. Through a separate arrangement, the City of Long Beach maintains all of the traffic signals in the City of Hawaiian Gardens to the east of the area. Therefore, the traffic signal at Carson Street and Pioneer Boulevard operated and maintained by the County of Los Angeles, is the only traffic signal not maintained by the City of Long Beach in a nearly five-mile stretch of Carson Street from Lakewood Boulevard to the County line.

Unfortunately, the County of Los Angeles operates a traffic signal system that is not connected to, nor is compatible with, the traffic signal control system operated by the City of Long Beach. This disconnect in traffic signal control at Carson Street and Pioneer Boulevard on such a key regional corridor can, and has in the past, resulted in several negative traffic flow impacts in the corridor. These impacts have included adjacent traffic signals drifting out of synchronization with each other, delayed reporting and response to trouble calls, and the inability of local traffic signals to adequately adjust to changing traffic demands because of a lack of real-time coordination. As a

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result of the increased popularity of the Long Beach Towne Center, staff from all three cities have agreed that it is critical that the traffic signal system on Carson Street operate seamlessly to move traffic efficiently in and out of the area. In addition to improving traffic flow, the transfer of operations and maintenance responsibility for the intersection to the City of Long Beach will facilitate the removal of an existing U-turn prohibition in the eastbound direction, which will enhance access for local businesses west of the 605 Freeway.

Therefore, it is recommended that the City of Long Beach assume the operations and maintenance responsibilities of the traffic signal at Carson Street and Pioneer Boulevard from the County of Los Angeles. The transfer of these responsibilities will be possible through an amendment to the December 1999 "Agreement Between the Cities of Lakewood and Long Beach Pertaining to Certain Municipal Services on Carson Street." This agreement identifies traffic signal operations and maintenance, as well as other responsibilities between the two agencies along the portion of Carson Street between and inclusive of the westerly property line of the Long Beach Towne Center and the Carson Street and Pioneer Boulevard intersection. An amendment to this agreement will enable the transfer of the City of Lakewood's share (50 percent) of the operations and maintenance responsibilities of the traffic signal from the City of Lakewood to the City of Long Beach. The City Council of the City of Lakewood has already taken action to approve such an amendment. Per the terms specified in the December 1999 agreement, the City of Long Beach is to provide all traffic related services at no cost to the City of Lakewood. This agreement expires in 2009.

The subject intersection is highlighted on the attached vicinity map.

This letter was reviewed by Senior Deputy City Attorney Donna Gwin on November 2, 2004 and Budget Management Officer David Wodynski on September 24, 2004.

#### TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action on this item is not time critical.

#### FISCAL IMPACT

The County of Los Angeles' annual cost of maintaining and operating the traffic signal at the intersection of Carson Street and Pioneer Boulevard is approximately \$4,000, which is generally higher than costs incurred by the City of Long Beach for the maintenance and operations of its traffic signals. Currently, the County of Los Angeles bills the City of Long Beach \$500 annually for its share (12.5 percent) of the cost of maintaining and operating the traffic signal. Upon the execution of the amendment, as recommended,

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the City of Long Beach will no longer be required to pay its \$500 annual obligation to the County of Los Angeles. In addition, through the execution of a separate agreement, the City of Long Beach will be able to bill the City of Hawaiian Gardens for its share (37.5 percent) of the maintenance and operations costs, estimated at slightly less than \$1,500 annually. The resulting annual cost to be incurred by the City of Long Beach for the transfer of the traffic signal operations and maintenance responsibilities from the City of Lakewood is anticipated to be less than \$2,000. Sufficient funds are budgeted in PWTR31A to fund this activity.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL:

Authorize the City Manager to execute the First Amendment to Agreement No. 26610 between the Cities of Lakewood and Long Beach pertaining to certain municipal services on Carson Street transferring traffic signal maintenance and operations responsibilities at the Pioneer Boulevard at Carson Street intersection from the City of Lakewood to the City of Long Beach.

Respectfully submitted,



CHRISTINE F. ANDERSEN  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

CFA:EN:mm  
350-09

Attachment

APPROVED:



GERALD R. MILLER  
CITY MANAGER