

CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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October 5, 2004

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
City of Long Beach
California

SUBJECT: Acceptance of Two Pedestrian Safety Grants From the California Office of Traffic Safety (Citywide)

DISCUSSION

The Public Works and Police Departments have applied for and received funding from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) for two pedestrian safety grants to enhance pedestrian safety citywide.

Two of the components of this program involve the deployment of pedestrian countdown head modules and vehicle speed feedback signs. Pedestrian countdown head modules are similar to the pedestrian signals currently used at signalized intersections, with the exception of a "countdown" timer that has been integrated within the module, which counts down during the flashing "Don't Walk" interval to make pedestrians aware of the remaining interval before the continuous "Don't Walk" indication begins. The Department of Public Works has been awarded \$70,000 for the purchase of 227 pedestrian countdown head modules to be deployed at 113 signalized crosswalks throughout the city. The locations of the pedestrian countdown head installations will be determined at a later date based on pedestrian-related accident rates.

Vehicle speed feedback signs are devices that serve as traffic safety educational tools. The feedback sign is intended to increase the awareness of the applicable speed limit on a given street by displaying the actual speed of the vehicle as it passes the sign. The statutory speed limit is posted adjacent to the dynamic readout on the feedback sign displaying the actual speed of the passing vehicle, allowing the driver to compare the actual speed at which he or she is driving to the posted statutory speed. The OTS has awarded \$80,000 for the purchase of 12 vehicle speed feedback signs. The deployment locations of the signs will be determined based on speed-related accident and speeding citation issuance rates, as well as in response to speeding complaints.

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The Police Department submitted a request for funding to the OTS to initiate a program to enhance pedestrian and bicycle safety citywide, primarily within school zones. The Police Department has been awarded \$153,900 for this program, consisting of the design and installation of 100 street pole banners, which will display messages educating the public on concepts of traffic safety at various locations of high pedestrian activity throughout the city, and funding for 2,400 personnel hours in overtime to provide additional traffic enforcement over a two-year period.

The OTS subsequently combined the vehicle speed feedback signs along with the pedestrian and bicycle safety effort into one program, known as the Interagency Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Program. A total of \$233,900 in grant funds has been awarded by the OTS for this joint effort between the Public Works and Police Departments.

This letter was reviewed by Senior Deputy City Attorney Donna Gwin on September 20, 2004 and David Wodynski, Budget Management Officer, on September 22, 2004.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action is requested on October 5, 2004, in order to begin expending the grant funds, which became available on October 1, 2004.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Pedestrian Countdown Heads grant of \$70,000 and the Interagency Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Program grant of \$233,900 are unbudgeted; therefore, an appropriation increase is included in the recommendations below. Neither grant requires a local match, but the cost of installation of the equipment by City staff will be absorbed within the operating budget of the Department of Public Works.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL:

1. Authorize the City Manager to execute documents necessary to accept and administer the Pedestrian Countdown Heads grant and the Interagency Pedestrian Bicycle Safety Program grant;
2. Increase appropriations in the Capital Projects Fund (CP) in the Department of Public Works (PW) by \$70,000 for the Pedestrian Countdown Heads grant; and

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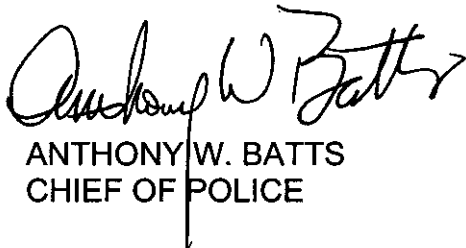
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3. Increase appropriations in the Capital Projects Fund (CP) in the Department of Public Works (PW) by \$80,000 and increase appropriations in the General Grants Fund (SR 120) in the Police Department (PD) by \$153,900 for the Interagency Pedestrian Bicycle Safety Program grant.

Respectfully submitted,



CHRISTINE F. ANDERSEN
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS



ANTHONY W. BATTS
CHIEF OF POLICE

CFA:RB:mm
352-12

APPROVED:



GERALD R. MILLER
CITY MANAGER