



City Council Staff Report

Date: May 27, 2009

CONSENT CALENDAR

Subject: APPROVAL OF PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATE (PS&E) AND AUTHORIZATION TO BID THE BARISTO ROAD AT PALM SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL TRAFFIC SIGNAL INSTALLATION, (CITY PROJECT 07-13)

From: David H. Ready, City Manager

Initiated by: Public Works and Engineering Department

SUMMARY

A new traffic signal on Baristo Road at the Palm Springs High School is warranted on the basis of high volumes of pedestrian activity during the morning, at lunch, and in the afternoon as students enter or leave campus. The construction documents (Plans, Specifications and Estimate) are completed and, in accordance with 7.03.040 of the Procurement and Contracting Code the Council is required to approve and adopt plans, specifications and working details, and authorize the bid request for all public projects in excess of \$100,000. Approval of this project will allow staff to proceed with this public project with an estimated cost of \$194,000.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the plans, specifications, and working details, and authorize bidding for the Baristo Road at Palm Springs High School Traffic Signal Installation Project, (City Project 07-13).

STAFF ANALYSIS:

The Public Works and Engineering Department included installation of a new traffic signal on Baristo Road at the Palm Springs High School / Palm Springs Mall intersection in the 2008/2009 fiscal year budget. In 1998, as part of the expansion of the Palm Springs High School, a traffic impact study was prepared which identified a need for a signalized pedestrian crossing on Baristo Road as a safe access for pedestrians coming to and from the High School. The Public Works Department conducted a traffic signal warrant evaluation for this traffic signal last year, and found that Warrant 4 – Pedestrian Volume, and Warrant 5 – School Crossing, were both satisfied. The California Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) specifies

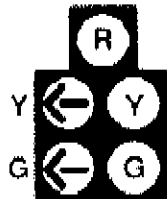
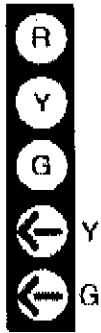
that a traffic signal shall be installed when warranted. Therefore, the Public Works Department is recommending that, although the traffic signal is in close proximity to Farrell Drive, its necessity is demonstrated by the warrants verified on the basis of pedestrian volumes and school crossing justifications.

In order to ensure that the traffic signal crossing would be utilized by students, the Public Works Department installed a striped cross-walk at the intersection. Subsequently, staff coordinated with the High School administration to ensure the students' use of the cross-walk would be enforced. In recent conversations with High School administrators, staff has confirmed that the High School is enforcing the students' use of the cross-walk with great success. Staff has also verified its use which is documented in the following picture:



In the current condition, students cross Baristo Road in the striped cross-walk without the additional protection of a signalized crossing which directs through traffic to stop. As seen in the picture, vehicles are forced to stop by the very fact that a high volume of pedestrians are crossing the street; the traffic signal will ensure that vehicles appropriately stop for pedestrians. The traffic signal will also promote better traffic flow during peak hours by preventing students from crossing Baristo Road when they choose, requiring students to wait for the appropriate pedestrian phase of the traffic signal to cycle for their use. In the event students jay-walk against traffic, High School administrators have assured staff that they will pursue jay-walking infractions and ensure students cross Baristo Road safely at the appropriate time.

The traffic signal has been designed with protected/permissive signal phasing on Baristo Road. A protected/permissive signal is one that has a five-section vehicle head on the signal mast arm, shown at right below, and has a five-section vehicle head on the far pole, shown at left below:



This type of signal phasing allows traffic to move through the intersection more efficiently, giving left-turning vehicles a "permissive" movement, allowing the turn when there are no opposing vehicles. In a true "protected" phase, a vehicle must wait for the green arrow to make the movement, whether or not there is opposing traffic.

The plans and specifications have been prepared by the City's engineering consultant (Albert Grover & Associates), are ready for Council approval and the subsequent advertisement for construction bids. Section 7.03.040 of the Procurement and Contracting Code requires that for public projects in excess of \$100,000 Council approve and adopt the plans, specifications and working details, and authorize staff to advertise for construction bids. The Engineer's Estimate for this project is \$194,000. Approval of the recommended action will allow staff to proceed with bidding of this project.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Funding for this project is available in Local Measure A account 134-4498-50262 (Traffic Signal Baristo). No local general funds are required for this project.

Submitted:

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