

STAFF REPORT
City of Lancaster

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Date: June 26, 2012

To: Mayor Parris and City Council Members

From: Robert C. Neal, Director of Public Works

Subject: **Cooperative Agreement between the County of Los Angeles, the City of Palmdale and the City of Lancaster – Columbia Way (Avenue M) Bridge Over State Route 14 Project Study Report**

Recommendation:

Approve the Cooperative Agreement with the County of Los Angeles (County) and City of Palmdale (Palmdale), to prepare the Project Study Report required by Caltrans for improvements to the Columbia Way (Avenue M) Bridge over State Route 14. Authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to sign all necessary documents.

Fiscal Impact:

Estimated \$300,000.00; sufficient funds are available in Capital Improvements Budget Account Nos. 232-13ST001-924 and 262-13ST001-924.

Background:

The Project Study Report (PSR) will address improvements to the Columbia Way (Avenue M) Bridge over State Route 14 between 10th Street West and 15th Street West. The project is within the shared geographical boundaries of the City of Lancaster (City), the County and Palmdale and is jurisdictionally shared with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).

Columbia Way (Avenue M) is a vital east-west arterial road in the Antelope Valley that carries a heavy volume of traffic. The Columbia Way (Avenue M) bridge over State Route 14 experiences significant traffic delays and has been identified for widening, traffic signals, and other roadway improvements.

The PSR will develop a detailed engineering concept report, scope of proposed improvements, cost estimate, and project recommendation. The PSR is required by Caltrans and is a precursor to potential grant funding. Grant funding is highly competitive, and the PSR will provide necessary information for a well documented proposal. Possible funding sources include the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority C~II for Projects Program, Federal Highway Bridge Program, and Highway Safety Improvement Program administered by Caltrans.

Per the agreement, the City shall prepare or cause to be prepared the PSR. The County and Palmdale will participate in the review of the PSR, but the City will be responsible for obtaining Caltrans approval of the PSR.

The County and Palmdale will each finance 25% of the cost. The City of Lancaster shall finance the remaining 50%. The County and Palmdale will each deposit with the City \$75,000.00 following execution of the agreement. Upon completion of the project, the County and/or Palmdale shall reimburse the City for additional approved costs incurred as described in the Cooperative Agreement.

The attached agreement will be executed concurrently and appeared before the Palmdale City Council on June 6, 2012.

The California Environmental Quality Act requires public agency decision makers to document and consider the environmental implications of their actions. The preparation of a preliminary study is statutorily exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15262. Duly authorized City officials must make such finding. Approval and execution of the Cooperative Agreement shall represent Council's concurrence of CEQA exemption.

MD:tl

Attachment:
Agreement