

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE May 8, 2020

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **May 13, 2020 Upcoming Agenda Item #26 - Reprogramming 2017 Bond Funds**

The 2017 bond program included a total of \$38.5 million for signals and associated infrastructure. The funds were broken down into: (a) \$18.5 million for new warranted signals, and (b) \$20 million for signal synchronization. This memo discusses the \$20 million signal synchronization part of the program.

The objective of the signal synchronization program is to coordinate the operation of signals along major arterials to provide smooth flow of traffic and reduce congestion. For this program to be implemented, the signal infrastructure must be upgraded to the latest specifications and technologies.

On December 3, 2019, Department of Transportation staff briefed the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on the status of the traffic signal infrastructure. In that presentation, it was noted that approximately 60% of the City's signal infrastructure is over 30 years old and that the main City arterials had significant disparity in the age and functionality of the signals. To address this issue, a framework of a signal infrastructure upgrade plan was introduced which included the reprogramming of funds from the signal synchronization program to a reconstruction and upgrading program that covers signals, streetlights, and an asset management program.

As a follow up to the plan's framework, there is an item on the May 13, 2020 City Council agenda requesting approval to reprogram \$12.5 million of the \$20 million from signal synchronization to more pressing operational needs. The funding would be used for:

- Traffic signal construction (approximately \$10.2 million)
 - The City intends to use most of the \$10.2 million as the local match for traffic signal grant matches or as a leverage tool where signals are present and can be upgraded based on the prioritization criterion noted below.
- Streetlight construction (approximately \$2 million)
 - The City has applied for grants for streetlight construction under Dallas County's Major Capital Improvement Program (MCIP) and intends to use some of the \$2 million as the local match for the grant applications. In this way, the money can be leveraged to secure additional streetlights.
- Development of an asset management/preservation program to extend the life of the existing traffic signals (approximately \$350,000)

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The prioritization of the signal replacement/upgrade and street illumination will be based on the following priorities:

- Leveraging percentage
- Safety improvements/ equity
- Emergency response corridors
- Proximity to schools and hospitals
- Site-specific risks

Use of the Remaining \$7.5 million from the \$20 million signal synchronization

- Approximately \$2.5 million from the signal synchronization bond funds has already been spent on signal retiming and radar upgrades.
- \$5 million will stay programmed for signal synchronization.

Other Bond Funding for Signals

The 2017 bond program also includes \$18.5 million for newly warranted signals. Reprogramming of the signal synchronization money item does not impact this funding.

If you have any questions, please let me know.



Majed Al-Ghafry, P.E.
Assistant City Manager

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| T.C. Broadnax, City Manager | Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager |
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| Mark Swann, City Auditor | Dr. Eric A. Johnson, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services |
| Billierae Johnson, City Secretary | M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer |
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| Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager | M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion |
| Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager | Directors and Assistant Directors |