



CITY OF RICHMOND

Department of Planning & Development Review *Staff Report*

Ord. No. 2017-220: To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to accept funds in the total amount of \$800,000.00 from the Virginia Department of Transportation; to amend the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Capital Budget by establishing a new project in the Transportation category called the Downtown Traffic Signal Retiming project; and to appropriate the amount of \$800,000.00 to the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Capital Budget by increasing estimated revenues and the amount appropriated to the new Department of Public Works' Downtown Traffic Signal Retiming project by \$800,000.00 for the purpose of retiming signalized intersections located within certain areas of downtown Richmond.

To: City Planning Commission
From: Land Use Administration
Date: December 4, 2017

PETITIONER

Michael B. Sawyer, City Transportation Engineer

LOCATION

Downtown Richmond

PURPOSE

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer or designee, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to accept \$800,000 for the Downtown Traffic Signal Retiming Project from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), and to amend the FY2018 Capital Improvement Budget (Award # - New) by appropriating \$800,000 for the project. Project U000-127-017 UPC 112373.

SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATION

On December 4, 2015, President Obama signed the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act (Pub. L. No. 114-94) into law—the first federal law in over a decade to provide long-term funding certainty for surface transportation infrastructure planning and investment. The FAST Act authorizes \$305 billion over fiscal years 2016 through 2020 for highway and motor vehicle safety, public transportation, motor carrier safety, hazardous materials safety, rail, and research, technology, and statistics programs. The FAST Act maintains focus on safety, keeps intact the established structure of the various highway-related programs, continues efforts to streamline project delivery and, for the first time, provides a dedicated source of federal dollars for freight projects. With the enactment of the FAST Act, states and local governments are now moving forward with critical transportation projects with the confidence that they will have a federal partner over the long term.

This legislation provides also for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program funding which was implemented to support surface transportation projects and other related efforts that contribute air quality improvements and provide congestion relief. This program is managed by the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) and gives them the opportunity to recommend projects that have a positive impact on the region.

The Downtown Traffic Signal Retiming Project will allow for the retiming of signalized intersections located within the downtown area (154 signalized intersections within the limits of I-95 north-east,

James River in the south, and Lombardy St in the west). Signal retiming is oriented toward optimizing a controller unit's response to the demands of roadway users, including all types of motor vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians. Signal timing strategies include the minimization of stops, delays, fuel consumption and air pollution emissions and the maximization of progressive movement through a system or corridor.

The RRTPO has recommended the State to fund this project through the CMAQ Funds which are included in the FY 18-20 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The total project estimate is \$800,000, funded thru FY18 federal funds which is 100% reimbursable.

The Department of Public Works recommends approval of this ordinance.

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