

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING**

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Emil R. Moncivais, AICP, AIA, Director, Planning Department; Thomas G. Wendorf, P.E., Director, Public Works Department

THROUGH: Terry M. Brechtel, City Manager

COPIES: Jelynn LeBlanc Burley, Assistant City Manager; Melissa Byrne Vossmer, Assistant City Manager

SUBJECT: An Ordinance approving the proposed transportation planning projects to be submitted to the Metropolitan Planning Organization for funding consideration in Fiscal Years 2004 & 2005

DATE: May 29, 2003

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In accordance with the funding procedures adopted by the Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) Transportation Steering Committee, concurrence by the City Council is required in setting the direction and priority of transportation planning studies.

This ordinance recommends the following work program in priority order for funding consideration by the Metropolitan Planning Organization in Fiscal Years 2004 & 2005:

	FY 04	FY 05
– Medical Center Area Micro-simulation Modeling Expansion	\$ 250,000	
– Retiming Traffic System Plans		\$100,000
– FY 02 Traffic Signal Retiming Project (carryover portion)	\$ 92,000	
– Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning & Coordination	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
– Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update	\$ 50,000	\$ 10,000
– Support for MPO's Transportation Modeling Network		
– Data Migration to a TransCad Transportation Model		\$ 50,000
– Support for MPO's Planning Process	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
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Subtotal	\$ 422,000	\$190,000

TOTAL FY 2004 & 2005 \$ 612,000

The City's Planning Commission considered this item on May 14, 2003, and by resolution recommends adoption of this program.

Staff recommends approval.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Yearly the City of San Antonio puts forth proposals for funding consideration of transportation planning projects eligible under the Transportation Equity Act of the 21st Century (TEA 21). In accordance with MPO policy the governing body must submit its priority projects in order for them to be considered. This year, however, the MPO is requesting that projects for two fiscal years be brought forth for consideration. The following is a description of the aforementioned projects for which federal transportation planning funds are being sought:

Medical Center Area Micro-simulation Modeling Expansion. This subtask expands the scope of the micro-simulation model for the Medical Center Area (MCA) to the level originally conceived. This study will expand the existing model from an area with 50 intersections to an area with 180 intersections. Anticipated applications of the model include assessment of possible Bus Rapid Transit along the Fredericksburg Road corridor, evaluation of land use changes on the transportation infrastructure and capital project planning in the area.

A current study, sponsored by the City of San Antonio, initiated development of a micro-simulation model for the MCA. However, because of budget constraints, the scope of the model has been significantly reduced from that originally conceived to include only 50 intersections (38 signalized) and limits the boundary of the study area. This work is underway.

Estimated Cost is \$250,000 in FY 2004.

Retiming Traffic Signal System Plans. This subtask analyzes traffic patterns within five selected traffic signal systems (Blanco/West Ave., S.E. Military, Stone Oak Pkwy, Marbach/Military, and San Pedro Systems) and develops recommendations for new traffic signal timing plans and associated progressive signal systems. These systems collectively include 50 signalized intersections.

Estimated Costs is \$100,000 in FY 2005.

FY 2002 Traffic Signal Re-Timing (carryover portion). This project will include the performance of signal system timing analyses for implementation in the field. This study includes six signal systems (Alamo Quarry, Fredericksburg Rd. inside IH 410, St. Cloud, Bandera inside IH-410, Blanco inside IH-410, and Broadway) comprising 81 coordinated signalized intersections. These signals are those determined to be of greatest need for re-timing analysis and the result will be significant improvement in traffic flow characteristics including less vehicles stops, delays and pollutant emissions.

Estimated cost (carryover of \$92,000 in FY 2004): \$70,000 programmed in current fiscal year.
TOTAL project cost - \$162,000.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning and Coordination. This task will include the coordination, planning, and monitoring of the various mobility initiatives for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Program and continuing efforts of completing a regional bicycle plan for San Antonio. This position will be charged with continuing efforts to promote bicycle and pedestrian planning efforts for the City. A centralized point of contact will ensure better continuity of on-going bicycle and pedestrian efforts. This position will be charged with coordinating efforts with Bexar County,

MPO, TxDOT, Parks & Recreation, Planning, Bicycle Mobility Task Force, and Pedestrian Mobility Task Force, etc.

Estimated cost is \$40,000 (\$20,000 in FY 2004 and \$20,000 in FY 2005).

Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update. This task allows for the development, maintenance and update of the multi-modal Metropolitan Transportation Plan for the San Antonio-Bexar County metropolitan area for a 25-year horizon. The plan horizon year is 2030. Federal Transportation planning requirements under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA 21) require that the Metropolitan Transportation Plan be fully updated every five years. The plan is based on a trip model and is undertaken with participation of the Texas Department of Transportation, Metropolitan Planning Organization, VIA Metropolitan Transit, Alamo Area Council of Governments, Bexar County, and the City of San Antonio. The Plan update is scheduled for completion in December 2004.

It is proposed that the City assist in reviewing and updating the transportation planning requirements under TEA 21 and undertake the following planning activities:

- Assist with public involvement and documenting results of public input
- Assist with the evaluation of multi-modal trip model results
- Provide staff support to complete the technical research, production, and editing of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update
- Undertake analysis of household production between 2000 and year ending 2002 by Census Tracts. Apply household size factor to estimate 2002 population and households.
- Aggregate 2002 household and population estimates to the forecast district and produce report on methods, trends, and analysis

Estimated cost for participation in this project is: \$ 60,000 (\$50,000 in FY 2004 - \$10,000 in FY 2005).

Support for the MPO's Transportation Modeling Network Data Migration to a TransCad Transportation Planning Model. This project will provide assistance to and coordinate with the MPO and the Alamo Area Council of Governments. The goal of this project is to import and test the MPO's transportation model networks in a more robust regional transportation modeling plan known as TransCad. Testing and calibration of the model will be an essential component of this project. Ultimately, the model may be used in analyzing region-wide system impacts using assumptions about future and potentially significant changes in land use or changes in the transportation system. Testing major thoroughfare alternatives and their impacts on the surrounding transportation system will be a product of this project.

Estimated cost is \$50,000 in FY 2005.

Support for the MPO's Planning Process. City staff participation in the MPO's planning process is essential for the coordination and implementation of local transportation planning programs. City staff's involvement in the process includes participation in committees and task forces that deal with diverse issues such as air quality, pedestrian and bicycle planning, land use and transportation planning, and corridor planning with other local jurisdictions and agencies. Citizen involvement in the planning process is an essential requirement for a coordinated, cooperative and comprehensive planning process. Staff also participates in oversight committees to

review request for proposals, select consultants, and monitor the progress of work under contracts. Overall, this program ensures continued staff support in this federally funded planning process.

Estimated cost for support of this program is: \$ 20,000 (\$10,000 in FY 2004 and \$10,000 in FY 2005).

POLICY ANALYSIS

The proposed transportation planning program responds to the planning requirements as established in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA 21), and reflects the City's continuous commitment to undertake an enhanced transportation planning function.

These studies reflect established planning priorities consistent with the City's Master Plan and constitute the City of San Antonio's role in the coordinated transportation planning process of the Metropolitan Planning Organization.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

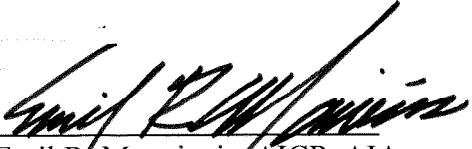
If this work program is approved by the MPO, the City may receive a total of \$612,000 for fiscal years 2004 & 2005, depending on the availability of federal transportation planning funds.

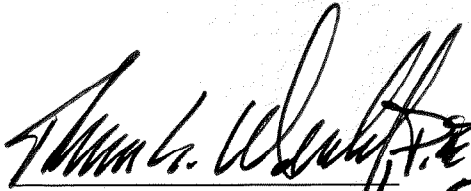
COORDINATION

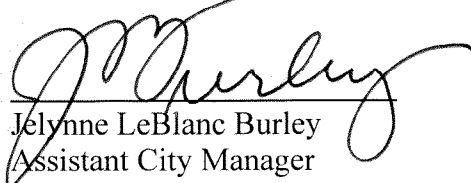
This item has been coordinated with the Public Works Department.

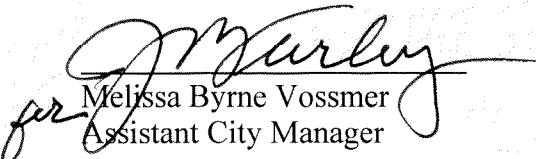
SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS

This item does not require a Discretionary Contracts Disclosure Form.



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5/16/03


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Approved:


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