SUBJECT: RATIFICATION OF CONGESTION MITIGATION AIR QUALITY (CMAQ) PROJECTS

SOURCE: Public Works Department - Engineering Division

COMMENT: On April 27, 2005, Public Works was informed by Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) that a $770,000 grant awarded to the City to replace five fuel inefficient refuse trucks could not be honored. The Federal Government informed all State Council of Governments (COGs) that the use of CMAQ funds could not be used in the manner described above.

TCAG staff asked the City to submit a list of replacement projects for TCAG’s review and consideration. Public Works provided the replacement list in an accelerated manner so as not to place the funds in jeopardy. On June 20, 2005, the TCAG Board acted on and approved the projects submitted by the City. A formal application must now be submitted on each project. The application must document and the City Engineer must affirm in writing, that air quality will improve as a result of the project.

The purpose of this staff report is to ask Council to ratify the projects submitted to TCAG on June 2, 2005. Regrettably, this action is after the fact. Public Works was motivated to move quickly with the list of replacement projects so as not to jeopardize the $770,000 grant. The projects, project costs and reasons for their selection are as follows:

1. Traffic Signal @ Olive Avenue and Mathew Street
   Construction Cost - $285,000
   The City recognized that Mathew Street would and has become a principal corridor to Olive Avenue. This traffic signal was designed approximately 3 years ago but, right of way issues and ultimately lack of funding, postponed its construction. Mathew Street is currently a 3/4 street and must be widened to full width status before CMAQ funds can be utilized. It is staff’s opinion that this intersection warrants a traffic signal and the CMAQ grant presents an opportunity to fund this construction.

2. Traffic Signal @ Newcomb Street and Westfield Avenue
   Design, Right of Way and Construction Costs - $272,000
   Approximately 2 years ago traffic counts revealed that Westfield Avenue at Newcomb Street could not be considered the minor street. Westfield Avenue and Newcomb Street equally share the traffic volume which led to the installation of 4-way stop signs. This intersection warrants a traffic signal and the CMAQ grant presents an opportunity to fund this construction.
3. Roundabout @ Main Street and College Avenue
   Design, Right of Way and Construction Costs - $125,000

   Public Works has been aware of traffic congestion problems at this intersection but has not had the resources to effect any improvements. Staff’s preliminary investigation suggests that a 3-way stop intersection will greatly reduce the efficiency of the intersection. A traffic signal may significantly impact traffic exiting the College parking lot and may also significantly impact traffic exiting the Highway 190 off ramp.

   In addition, staff has discussed extending Poplar Avenue from Jaye Street to Main Street to provide a second avenue to relieve traffic away from the Jaye Street corridor. If this project becomes a reality, Caltrans will insist that the new Main Street and Poplar Avenue intersection be a signalized intersection. A traffic signal at this location and one at Main Street and College Avenue would create significant timing and movement problems.

4. Newcomb Street Shoulder Stabilization (Sidewalk)
   Design and Construction Costs - $200,000

   This principal arterial from Morton Avenue to Olive Avenue lacks sidewalk along the east and west sides of the street. Pedestrian traffic will greatly benefit by the installation of sidewalk and the CMAQ grant presents an opportunity to fund this construction.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

1. Authorize the Mayor to execute the attached resolution formally ratifying the projects presented in the staff report;

2. Direct the Public Works Director to transmit the executed resolution to the Tulare County Association of Governments; and

3. Direct the Public Works Director to prepare and submit a formal application for each project for the purpose of securing the necessary funds to design and construct the projects identified herein.

ATTACHMENTS: Locator Map
Resolution
RESOLUTION NO. __________

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF PORTERVILLE
APPROVING THE RATIFICATION OF
CONGESTION MITIGATION AIR QUALITY (CMAQ) PROJECTS

WHEREAS, the City of Porterville was notified by Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) that the CMAQ Grant for the replacement of five fuel inefficient refuse trucks could not be honored due to a ruling by the Federal Government; and

WHEREAS, the City of Porterville was also notified by TCAG to provide a replacement list in an accelerated manner so as not to jeopardize these CMAQ funds in the amount of $770,000; and

WHEREAS, that on June 20, 2005, the TCAG Board approved the projects submitted by the City and a formal application must be submitted for each project; and

WHEREAS, TCAG requires City Council’s approval and ratification of the replacement projects for the awarded CMAQ grant;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Porterville, to approve the ratification of the following projects for the awarded CMAQ grant:

1. Traffic Signal at Olive Avenue and Mathew Street;
2. Traffic Signal at Newcomb Street and Westfield Avenue;
3. Roundabout at Main Street and College Avenue; and
4. Newcomb Street Shoulder Stabilization (Sidewalk).

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Kelly E. West, Mayor

ATTEST:

John Longley, City Clerk

By: Patrice Hildreth, Deputy City Clerk