

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda date: 7/5/05
Prepared date: 6/28/05
Reviewed by: _____

SUBJECT: Request for authorization to enter into a contract with Korve Engineering regarding Eastshore Highway and Buchanan Street traffic signal

FROM: Dave Dowswell, Planning Manager
Ann Chaney, Community Development Director

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council authorize staff to enter into a contract with Korve Engineering to complete the necessary traffic analysis for the Eastshore Highway and Buchanan Street traffic signal, and direct Gray Bowen and Company, Inc. to continue to pursue obtaining an encroachment permit from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for the signal.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

When the Target Store project was under consideration by the City, a traffic study was required. The traffic study determined that a traffic signal should be installed at the intersection of Eastshore Highway and Buchanan Street. The City Engineer estimated the cost of installing a signal at \$350,000. Target Corporation was required to pay \$70,000 (their fair/proportionate share of the traffic demand) toward the cost of installing the signal. In order to interconnect the new signal with the existing signals located at the I-580/I-80 on and off-ramps, Caltrans must issue the City an encroachment permit/exception. Gray Bowen and Company, Inc. (consultant) was hired to assist the City in obtaining the necessary permits.

When the City's consultant initially contacted Caltrans, Caltrans indicated that the City needed to demonstrate that installing a traffic signal, and interconnecting it to the other signals, would not have a negative impact on existing traffic that uses the I-580/I-80 on and off-ramps. The City hired Korve Engineering to complete the necessary traffic study. After submitting the completed traffic study, Caltrans indicated that they might not be able to issue an encroachment permit because the signal would violate their regulations. They based this on their signal separation requirements. Following this determination, the City's consultant asked to have a meeting with Caltrans to discuss whether there was any benefit for the City to proceed further with their application

On June 7, 2005, staff (city engineer and planning manager), our consultant, and Korve Engineering met with representatives from Caltrans. At the meeting Caltrans stated that they were willing to consider the City's request for an encroachment permit and that they could approve an exception to their regulations if the traffic analysis showed that installing a new signal, and interconnecting it with the existing signals, would not have a negative impact on traffic. Under the new contract, Korve will collect and analyze data to address Caltrans' questions and concerns regarding the signal's potential impact on I-80/580 traffic.

FISCAL IMPACT

The current Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) includes the Eastshore/Buchanan traffic signal project. The total estimated cost for the traffic signal is \$350,000, which includes \$70,000 for pre-design work. To date, the City has spent \$37,607 on Gray Bowen and Korve Engineering. Korve Engineering has submitted a new proposal to complete the traffic analysis needed for Caltrans to approve an encroachment permit. The cost of the new traffic proposal is \$9,960.

The cost for Gray Bowen and Company, Inc. to assist in the permitting process is on a time a materials basis. Staff will continue to monitor the cost for Gray Bowen and Company, Inc. consulting work that will come from the \$70,000 pre-design work allocation approved in the CIP.

ATTACHMENT

Scope of Work from Korve Engineering