

STAFF REPORT

Date: June 5, 2024

To: Mayor and City Council

Through: Doug Thornley, City Manager

Subject: Staff Report (For Possible Action): Approval of the Cooperative Local Public Agency (LPA) Agreement for the School Zone Flashing Beacons Purchase between the City of Reno and the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) with a total project cost estimate of \$82,000 with Transportation Alternative (TA) Set-Aside funding of 95% at \$77,900 and a 5% match by the City at \$4,100. (Street Fund)

From: Jonathan Smith, Senior Civil Engineer

Department: Public Works

Summary:

On January 19, 2024, the Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County (RTC) approved \$77,900 in Transportation Alternative (TA) Set-Aside funding for the School Zone Flashing Beacons Purchase. RTC administers TA Set-Aside funding through the State of Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) and allocating these funds requires an agreement between the City of Reno and NDOT. Staff recommends Council approve the Cooperative Local Public Agency (LPA) Agreement between NDOT and the City of Reno.

Consent Review	Yes	No
1. Is this item an annual or standard item that comes before Council for regular approval?		X
2. Is this item an agreement required based on an item previously approved by Council?		X
3. Is this item included in the current budget approved and adopted by Council?	X	
Other Considerations		
What percent of the total City budget does this item represent?	0.00048%	

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

Public Safety

Infrastructure, Climate Change, and Environmental Sustainability

Previous Council Action:

There is no recent Council action relevant to this item.

Background:

The mission of the TA Set-Aside program is to improve our nation’s communities through leadership, innovation, and program delivery. The program’s vision is to create safe, accessible, attractive, and environmentally sensitive communities where people want to live, work, and recreate. The TA Set-Aside program provides funds for projects that improve non-motorized mobility, historic preservation, scenic accessibility, Safe Routes to School programs, and environmental management. TA Set-Aside projects may be included in existing planned transportation projects or may be stand-alone projects. TA Set-Aside funded infrastructure projects must be legally accessible to the general public. Safety is an important consideration in the development of these projects. Projects must be consistent with the current Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and RTC Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. Agencies eligible to apply for TA Set-Aside funds include local governments, regional transportation authorities, transit agencies, natural resource or public land agencies, school districts, and Tribal governments.

Discussion:

The project consists of the purchase of 13 solar-powered school zone flashing beacon systems to be installed under a separate project. The proposed locations are listed in Table 1.

Table 1: List of locations for School Zone Flashers

	Location	Quantity
1.	Anderson Elementary – Brinkby Ave.	2
2.	Caughlin Ranch Elementary – Village Green Pkwy.	2
3.	Hunter Lake Elementary – Hunter Lake Dr.	2
4.	Reno High School – Foster Dr.	2
5.	Reno High School – Booth St.	2
6.	Duncan Elementary/Trainer Middle – Carville Dr.	2
7.	Corbett Elementary – Villanova Dr.	1

The locations of the recommended school zone flashing beacons are determined by a prioritization system. The locations are prioritized using the predictive method of the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials Highway Safety Manual (AASHTO HSM). This method predicts how many crashes might happen in each school zone by using data about the roads, past crashes, and how much traffic there is at each location. Locations with the highest number of expected crashes have been prioritized to receive flashing beacon systems. The flashing beacons that will be purchased with this contract will look like the image in Figure 1.

Figure 1: School Zone Flashing Beacon



The TA Set-Aside Program establishes a process for ranking and selecting projects that conform to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requirements. Eligible agencies that can submit projects include local governments, regional transportation authorities, transit agencies, natural resource or public land agencies, school districts, and Tribal governments. RTC scored and ranked eligible applications and presented those with the highest scores to the RTC advisory committees for recommendation and to the RTC board for final approval. The RTC board approved this project for funding on January 19, 2024.

Financial Implications:

The total cost of the project is estimated to be approximately \$82,000. TA Set-Aside funding provides up to 95% of the project costs at \$77,900. The City is required to provide a 5% match at \$4,100. The City's match funding for this project is available in the Street Fund.

Legal Implications:

Legal review has been completed for compliance with City procedures and Nevada law.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Council approve the agreement and authorize the Mayor to sign.

Proposed Motion:

I move to approve staff recommendation.

Attachments:

TAP LPA agreement NDOT COR