

COUNCIL DECISION REQUEST

SUBJECT: Highway 87 and Airport Road/Airline Blvd. Signal

MEETING DATE: 10/05/06

CSP ITEM: Yes No KRA#

ITEM NO.:

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

SUBMITTED BY: LaRon G. Garrett, Public Works

AMOUNT BUDGETED: \$ 0

SUBMITTAL TO AGENDA
APPROVED BY TOWN MANAGER

EXPENDITURE REQUIRED: \$ 0

CONT. FUNDING REQUIRED: \$ 0

EXHIBITS (If Applicable, To Be Attached):

RECOMMENDED MOTION

I move to direct staff to send a letter to the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) requesting that they pursue constructing a roundabout at the intersection of Highway 87 and Airport Road / Airline rather than a traffic signal.

SUMMARY OF THE BASIS FOR RECOMMENDED MOTION:

In 2002 the Town staff started working with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) to get a traffic control device installed at the intersection of Highway 87 and Airport Road/Airline Lane. Initially the traffic counts at that intersection did not warrant a signal. In 2004 the traffic study was updated and a traffic control device was warranted. This type of project is typically a joint project between ADOT and the local government agency. Normally ADOT pays for all of the design and right of way acquisitions and the construction costs are split 50-50 with the local agency. After meeting with ADOT, they hired a consultant to investigate what would have to be done to construct a signal at this intersection and to prepare a preliminary cost estimate. That study was completed with a construction cost estimate of \$388,000. This included the cost of the signal, a minor realignment of the intersection, and the additional right turn lanes that needed to be installed. The Town's half of the construction would be \$194,000. In addition, the Town will need to pay the entire cost of approximately \$10,000 to have the emergency preemption device (Opticom) installed. This brought the Town cost to \$204,000. Funding for this project is included in this years budget in the amount of \$205,000.

ADOT proceeded to have the project designed. We now have an updated cost estimate based on the preliminary plans. That estimated construction cost has now increased to \$494,000. The Towns cost would be one-half (\$247,000) plus the \$10,000 Opticom for a total of \$257,000. With the recent cost estimate available, we have again had discussions with ADOT concerning constructing a round-a-bout at this intersection instead of a signal. With the high increases in steel signal pole costs, it may be less costly now to construct a round-a-bout than install a signal. ADOT has recently indicated that they would fund an update of the original study to determine the requirements of a round-a-bout at this intersection and prepare

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a preliminary cost estimate if the Council desires. There are some strings attached to this offer. ADOT has also stated their participation in round-a-bout construction would be 50% but limited to a maximum of \$250,000. Also, this change will probably delay the start of construction of any improvements at this intersection. Right now we are looking at mid to late 2007 to begin construction of the signal.

ADOT has requested a letter from the Town indicating their support for constructing a round-a-bout before they proceed on updating the study.

Staff recommends that Council direct that a letter be sent to ADOT from the Town supporting this change in traffic control.

PROS: A roundabout will not require additional right turn lanes and will allow a more continuous flow of traffic at the intersection.

CONS: Some drivers are still unsure of themselves while using a roundabout. Going forward with a roundabout design may cause a delay in constructing a traffic control device at this intersection.

PUBLIC INPUT (if any): N/A

BOARD/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION ACTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS (if any) (give dates and attach minutes):