

RESPONSE TO COUNCIL QUESTIONS RE: 3/30/2021 CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

Agenda Item #: 1.D

Title: Approve Budget Modification No. 13 to Appropriate \$791,950 in FY 2020/21 Transportation Fund for Clean Air County Program Manager Funds for the Retiming of Traffic Signals and Authorize the City Manager to Execute All Grant-Related Documents

Council Question: To the best of my recollection, Sunnyvale did a traffic signal retiming exercise in summer 2018 in the southwest part of the City along Mary and Bernardo, with Caltrans also making some changes to the signals at Bernardo/Fremont/SR-85. To what extent, if any, does the 2018 signal retiming exercise overlap with this one?

Staff Response: This retiming effort will not include modification or adjustment of coordination timing at the Fremont/85 interchange area as part of the Bernardo Avenue corridor retiming. The City's project contemplated use of TFCA funding will only involve City maintained and operated traffic signals. A separate study issue is reviewing possible improvements at the interchange.

Council Question: I have no issue with the item or approving the Appropriation. My question has to do with the definition of success. It says to "...reduce delays for all users...". What does this mean in reality? The last time we had timing changes on Mary and Remington - cross traffic experienced longer delays.

Will the timing changes be dynamic and specific to time of day?

At the end of this, what will we use as criteria to declare success?

Staff Response: The coordination retiming project will be looking at specific times of days when traffic volumes necessitate a need for coordination of corridors. Staff will be using different principles, priorities and evaluation criteria than what was used previously. This cycle staff will be looking to strike a more balanced approach towards reducing delay for side-street traffic, pedestrians and bicyclists and implement the shortest coordination cycle lengths possible while still accommodating overall traffic needs. Staff will also try to encourage regional/interjurisdiction traffic to use the major arterials instead of minor arterials and collector streets. This may be facilitated by adjusting which traffic signals are run as a sub-group within a corridor facilitating easier connections to major roadways versus travel down the entire length of a corridor such as Mary Avenue or Hollenbeck Avenue. One metric that staff will be using will include looking at minimizing/reducing delay for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists when waiting on the side-street for service while at the same time still moving major street traffic. Staff will still evaluate performance via improvements of travel time based on the posted speed limit within specific sub-groups of traffic signals and improvement to air quality via reduction of time spent idling or stopped.

Agenda Item #: 4

Title: Approval of Third Substantial Amendment to the 2019 HUD Annual Action Plan to Award CDBG-CV Funding

Council Question: Would it be possible for the City to use any of the \$1.36 million to pay itself back for outlays made last year under the Sunnyvale Cares program?

Staff Response:

The short answer is no, we cannot use CDBG-CV funding to pay back ourselves.

To clarify, the City funding for the Sunnyvale Cares program was **\$750,000** (the remainder funds were from several donations):

- the Sunnyvale Cares Small Business Grant program was funded with \$600,000 in General Fund monies and \$760,000 donations
- the Sunnyvale Cares Nonprofit Grant Program was funded with \$150,000 in General Fund monies.

In the future, though, if businesses qualify based on the type of economic activity outlined in HUDs guidelines, then they could apply for future rounds of CDBG-CV funding if the City received another tranche. The CDBG-CV funds can support only the below economic development uses:

- Provide grants or loans to support new businesses or business expansion to create jobs and manufacture medical supplies necessary to respond to infectious disease.
- Avoid job loss caused by business closures related to social distancing by providing short-term working capital assistance to small businesses to enable retention of jobs held by low- and moderate-income persons

Regarding nonprofits, CDBG-CV funding on the March 30, 2021 agenda is allocated to support Sunnyvale's low-income residents directly impacted by the pandemic, with funding priorities based on the City's Consolidated Plan. In the future the City should use caution when allocating CDBG funding to new grantees as the reporting and monitoring requirements from HUD are quite intricate.