



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:** 17-6353

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**Agenda Item Number:** 24.

**Agenda Date:** 12/14/2017

**In Control:** City Council A Session

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**DEPARTMENT:** Police

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** William P. McManus, Chief of Police

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** City Wide

**SUBJECT:**

Comprehensive Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) Grant from the Texas Department of Transportation

**SUMMARY:**

An ordinance authorizing the application and acceptance, if awarded, of a Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Comprehensive Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) Grant for the period of October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019. The STEP grant in the amount of \$900,000.00 will enhance the San Antonio Police Department's (SAPD) efforts to combat incidences of DWI, speeding, occupant protection, distracted driving and intersection related violations. This ordinance will also establish a total budget of \$1,256,500.00 that includes grant funds of \$900,000.00, a cash match not to exceed \$265,000.00 and an in-kind match not to exceed \$91,500.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The STEP will pay for traffic enforcement and educational activity on an overtime basis to help augment the SAPD's efforts to reduce the incidence of DWI, speeding, occupant protection, distracted driving and intersection related violations. Enforcement activity will be conducted with sworn officers assigned to the program on an overtime basis and the educational component will consist of both regular duty and overtime assignments.

The TxDOT award consists of \$900,000.00 from TxDOT, a City cash match of \$265,000.00, and an in-kind match of \$91,500. The total proposed program budget is \$1,256,500.00. The City's in-kind contribution will come from the cost of the vehicles used while performing grant activities (fuel, maintenance, repairs, etc.). Approximately 30% of the funding will be used for DWI enforcement and 70% of the budget is allocated for speeding, occupant protection, distracted driving and intersection related traffic enforcement.

Past fiscal year awards from the Texas Department of Transportation include:

- 2011 - Awarded \$ 840,000.00
- 2012 - Awarded \$ 556,482.84
- 2013 - Awarded \$ 464,537.41
- 2014 - Awarded \$1,000,000.00
- 2015 - Awarded \$1,000,000.00
- 2016 - Awarded \$1,000,000.00
- 2017 - Awarded \$1,000,000.00
- 2018 - Awarded \$1,000,000.00

## **ISSUE:**

The proposed ordinance continues the City Council's policy of seeking intergovernmental financial assistance for traffic safety programs. This program from TxDOT will expand the City's efforts in reducing crashes and fatalities with proactive traffic enforcement and public information and education through community outreach provided by the SAFFE units.

## **ALTERNATIVES:**

City Council may choose not to authorize the submission and acceptance of the grant. However, enforcement as well as the educational efforts would be significantly impaired without the funding. Historical data shows that approximately 15% of SAPD's overall DWI arrests come as a result of the TxDOT grants. In addition, 32% of all occupant protection, speeding, distracted driving and intersection related tickets issued in fiscal year 2016 were from officers working the TxDOT grant.

## **FISCAL IMPACT:**

This ordinance authorizes a program budget not to exceed \$1,256,500.00. The total proposed program budget includes grant funding of \$900,000.00, a FY 2019 General Fund cash-match of \$265,000.00, which has been budgeted, and an in-kind contribution of \$91,500.00. The City's in-kind contribution will come from the cost of the vehicles used while performing grant activities (fuel, maintenance, repairs, etc.) and the cost of court appearances by officers who make arrests while working the grant.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the submission and acceptance of the grant application for funds from TxDOT in order to continue the enhanced enforcement and educational efforts resulting from the Comprehensive STEP program.