



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of July 8, 2006**

DATE: June 5, 2006

SUBJECT: Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Highway Safety Project Grants

C. M. RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Authorize the County Manager to submit three (3) DMV Highway Safety Project Grant applications and to accept the awarded funds, which will be used for certain Police Highway Safety Programs
2. Contingent Upon approval, appropriate in FY 2007 up to \$156,000 in grant fund revenue from DMV (101.364900) to the Police Department (101.31202) for the costs associated with the program.

ISSUES: Should the County apply for Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Highway Safety Project Grant funding in reference to the following highway safety programs?

- (a) A comprehensive traffic safety program (402 grant) that includes initiatives related to aggressive driving enforcement, pedestrian safety and DUI enforcement.
- (b) The purchase of three (3) additional Alco-Sensors and fifteen hundred (1,500) Alco-Sensor tubes to be used in our DUI enforcement efforts
- (c) Allow the Arlington Police Department to participate in a DUI Enforcement Saturation Patrol with the Alexandria Police Department.

SUMMARY: The Police Department is seeking up to \$156,000 in Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles Highway Safety Project Grant funding to implement the highway safety programs.

BACKGROUND: The United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) is the federal agency responsible for the promotion of highway safety activities throughout the United States. As part of its responsibility, USDOT provides federal funding to the states for the purpose of adopting and improving projects or programs designed to reduce accidents, injuries and fatalities

County Manager: _____

Staff: Lt. Donald Grinder, Police Department

on the highways within their boundaries. In Virginia, federal funding is administered by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and is provided to state agencies and political subdivisions of the state for the development and continuation of highway safety projects.

DISCUSSION: The Police Department is requesting funds to subsidize costs associated with the enhancement of its Aggressive Driving, DUI Enforcement and Pedestrian Safety programs. With this additional funding, officers will be afforded the time to follow up on aggressive driving complaints received from the community and target their enforcement efforts in areas where they will be most beneficial to public safety. Officers will be available to be a visible presence at intersections where a high number of pedestrian related accidents occur. They will take the enforcement actions necessary to ensure the safety of pedestrians and the free flow of traffic.

The funds will also subsidize the Department’s efforts related to DUI enforcement. The funds will allow officers to work in an off duty capacity, specifically targeting intoxicated drivers during the peak hours that they are generally observed on the roadways. The funds will also be utilized for planned enforcement details and related equipment.

The two (2) mini-grants will be used to purchase additional Alco-Sensors and funding for off-duty officers to participate in a DUI saturation patrol in conjunction with the Alexandria Police Department.

	Funds Requested	Matching Funds
Comprehensive DMV grant that includes funding for Aggressive Driving enforcement, DUI enforcement and Pedestrian Safety	\$153,000	\$30,500
Alco-Sensor Project	\$1,500	None required (mini-grant)
Joint saturation DUI enforcement with the Alexandria Police Department	\$1,500	None required (mini-grant)
Total	\$156,000	\$30,600

FISCAL IMPACT: The Police Department is requesting \$153,000 in grant funds for a comprehensive grant that includes funding for the Aggressive Driving, Pedestrian Safety and DUI enforcement programs. The Department is also requesting \$3,000 for Alco-sensors and the participation in a specific DUI enforcement detail. The total for the three (3) grant opportunities would be \$156,000. Arlington County's required 20% match for the comprehensive DMV grant is \$30,600. An "in-kind" services match of this amount will come from the Police Department's FY 2007 annual operational budget. There is no local match for the two (2) mini-grants. The funds for the 402 grant will be available on October 1, 2006 and will expire on September 30, 2007.