



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

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

DATE: June 19, 2006

SUBJECT: Approval of an Agreement between the County Board and the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Transportation (VDOT) for the Development and Administration of Two Transportation Improvement Projects: (1) Emergency Vehicle Preemption on Lee Highway and (2) Grounding of the Signal System throughout the County.

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

1. Approve the Agreement between the County Board of Arlington, Virginia and the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Transportation (VDOT) for the two federally-funded transportation projects and authorize the County Manager or his designee on behalf of the County Board to enter into the Agreement.
2. Approve and Appropriate (1) \$800,000.00 in Federal Aid Secondary funds previously awarded to the County for Emergency Vehicle Preemption on Lee Highway and allocate to the Department of Environmental Services (DES) General Capital Improvement Fund (PAYGO) account (#313.43513) and (2) \$800,000.00 in Federal Secondary funds for Grounding of Signal System in Arlington and allocate to the DES General Capital Improvement Fund (PAYGO) account (#313.43513). These expenses will be reimbursed by VDOT as the revenue account for each project is yet to be determined.

ISSUES: None.

SUMMARY: This is a request for approval of an agreement for development and administration of two federally-funded transportation projects. The estimated cost for each project is \$1,000,000.00 (with 20% local match). Arlington had identified the need for the implementation of an emergency vehicle preemption system on Lee Highway. This enables emergency vehicles to gain priority so that they can achieve better EMS response times. In addition, the recently-completed study on Arlington's communication master plan recommended that the County ground its signal system equipment to conform to the national safety standards.

County Manager: _____

County Attorney: _____

Staff: A. Wasim Raja, Department of Environmental Services

DISCUSSION: Attached is the Standard Project Administration Agreement to be used for these two projects. The same agreement would apply to both the projects with details concerning each specific project addressed separately in Appendix A. The two projects are described below.

- **Lee Highway Emergency-Vehicle-Preemption (EVP) System:** These funds would complete preliminary engineering and implementation of an emergency vehicle preemption system on Lee Highway between Falls Church and Rosslyn. An EVP system is currently in place on Glebe Road between Lee Highway and Washington Boulevard including the access to Arlington Hospital. This grant would not only allow the County to expand its EVP coverage surrounding the I-66 corridor but also provide the basic infrastructure in deploying a transit-signal-priority system on Lee Highway in the future. The estimated cost of this project is \$1,000,000.00.
- **Grounding of Signal System throughout the County:** A recently-completed study on Arlington's communications master plan indicated that many signalized intersections within the County failed to pass an acceptable grounding test. The study further revealed that the signal cabinets and communication modems were not properly grounded at those locations. Improper grounding causes interference in the communications network, hardware malfunctions due to electrical conditions (burn-out of expensive equipments such as CCTV camera), and safety risks for technicians working at those locations. These funds would allow the County to properly ground all traffic-signal-system equipment in the field, and conform to the applicable national electrical standards. The estimated cost of this project is \$1,000,000.00.

FISCAL IMPACT: The total estimated cost for each project is \$1,000,000.00. The County's portion of the cost for each project is 200,000.00 (20% local match). This match for each project is to be funded from a previously approved Street, Highway & Community Conservation Bond under the Arterial program (Fund - 314; Cost Center – 43513; Source of Fund – SJB).

