



City Council Report

Date: August 26, 2019
To: City Council
Through: Kari Kent, Assistant City Manager
From: Beth Huning, City Engineer
Marc Ahlstrom, Assistant City Engineer
Michele Davila, Sr. Fiscal Analyst
Subject: Certification Acceptance Agreement
Citywide

Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this report is to present the renewal of the Certification Acceptance Agreement between the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) and the City of Mesa (City). This Agreement grants the City the authority to administer pathway, traffic signal, intelligent transportation systems and street improvement projects funded by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Background

The City of Mesa first became self-certified to administer FHWA-funded projects in 2007. In 2016, the City of Mesa worked with ADOT to renew this certification. The 2016 recertification Agreement, dated September 22, 2016, was effective for three years. Since that time, the City has worked collaboratively with seven (7) other certified agencies and ADOT on the 2019-2023 recertification effort creating consistency across the State in terms of the administration of these projects.

Discussion

By renewing the Agreement, ADOT will continue to delegate authority to the City of Mesa to directly administer the design and construction of Federal Aid Highway Projects (FAHP). This Agreement will govern all program and project specific activities between ADOT and the City for FAHP projects. The Agreement commits the City to accept delegated authority to administer FAHP projects, to adhere to federal and state laws and regulations and to perform the delegated duties as outlined in the ADOT Certification Acceptance Manual. Delegated duties include, but are not limited to, compliant project development, assigning qualified staff to projects, obtaining required approvals from State and FHWA and keeping and maintaining project records. The Agreement will remain in full force and effect for five years with annual reviews and updates.

Alternatives

If the City does not enter into this Agreement, the City will no longer be authorized to directly administer FHWA-funded projects. Federal Aid Highway Projects would be administered by ADOT, resulting in additional cost, oversight and monitoring, and delays in project delivery and completion.

Also, ADOT will have reduced sensitivity to the local needs of the City. ADOT primarily manages large highway projects and is not familiar with local agency needs and requirements.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact by entering into this agreement.

If the City does not enter into the Agreement, projects that receive FHWA-funding will be managed by ADOT resulting in additional administrative fees paid to ADOT and additional City staff costs resulting from the extended project schedules as noted above.

Coordinated With

The Transportation Department concurs with this recommendation.