

LRB – RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS SECTION

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
ITEM 13, FILE #081170**

JANUARY 8, 2009

File #081170 authorizes the Milwaukee Police Department to enter into an agreement with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to provide additional School Crossing Guards at 10 schools in the City of Milwaukee as a result of the Interstate 94 North-South corridor project. It is expected that traffic on local alternate route streets will be increased significantly as a result of the project, necessitating the need for additional traffic control at designated schools. The so-called “I-94 N-S Corridor Reconstruction Grant Agreement”, which runs from November 1, 2008 through December 31, 2010, calls for the city to be reimbursed for the costs incurred for the additional School Crossing Guards, with total reimbursement not to exceed \$100,000.

BACKGROUND

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (“WisDOT”) is proceeding with a 2009-2016 safety reconstruction plan for the Interstate 94 North-South corridor in southeastern Wisconsin. The 35 mile corridor runs from the Illinois state line through Kenosha and Racine counties to the Mitchell Interchange area in the City of Milwaukee and also includes the spur to General Mitchell International Airport. Milwaukee County interchanges at 27th Street, Ryan Road, Rawson Avenue, College Avenue, the airport spur and Layton Avenue will be impacted by the project, resulting in considerable diverted traffic on the local streets of Oak Creek, Franklin, Greenfield and the City of Milwaukee.

DISCUSSION

To mitigate traffic impacts caused by the project on the City of Milwaukee, the agreement calls for WisDOT to provide \$100,000 to the City for increased pedestrian safety. The City “project” area is defined as College Avenue on the south, Loomis Road on the west and Howard Avenue on the north. The City will provide additional School Crossing Guards at 10 locations within this project area, with placement to be based on pedestrian volume in school zones, traffic volumes at specific intersections and requests by citizens, the Police Department, WisDOT or neighboring communities.

The 10 school likely to be impacted per the agreement are Lowell Elementary, Salem Elementary, Victory Elementary, Whittier Elementary, Cooper Elementary, Cutain Elementary, Our Lady Queen of Peace, Our Fathers Lutheran School, Wisconsin Conservative Lifelong Learning and St. Charles Borromeo School. However, the agreement reserves the right of the City or WisDOT to eliminate or add schools depending on the aforementioned determining factors.

FISCAL IMPACT

The City shall charge actual costs incurred and attributable to the additional School Crossing Guards to WisDOT. Total reimbursement to the City for traffic mitigation measures under this agreement may not exceed \$100,000.

cc: Marianne Walsh
W. Martin Morics
Captain Diana Rowe
Lieutenant Gary Gacek
Barbara Butler

Prepared by:
Michael Talarczyk
Legislative Fiscal Analyst
286-8661
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