

## Supplement 3: 2017 Budget Council Q & A



Responses to Councilmember Questions from June 21, 2016 Budget Discussion during the City Council Meeting.

### **1. Please give some detail on street striping (how often it is done, etc.).**

We repaint approximately 285 miles of markings starting in June each year. As such, numerical data is not currently available on this year's process. The goal is to refresh all of the street striping with a new coat of paint each year.

### **2. Please breakdown the costs for City-owned streetlights and how many the City owns in comparison to how many Westar owns.**

The City has approximately 1,200 City owned street lights and approximately 8,500 Leased street lights from Westar. City owned street light have been installed as part of street projects with the equipment and installation cost paid for by the project. Ongoing costs of electricity and maintenance are paid from the Transportation Operations budget. These lights have been installed because Westar either did not have the aesthetic product desired within the project or did not have poles in appropriate location for required lighting. In these cases, the cost of the city purchasing and installing street lights and poles was a lower cost than through Westar.

### **3. Could we use a portion of the excess Countywide Half Cent Sales Tax to establish an engineering fund? The fund could be used for engineering and project planning costs for capital projects to avoid financing those costs.**

We currently borrow temporary notes for design and right of way costs related to capital projects, and then finance those costs along with construction costs when the project is complete. These costs are included in the total project amounts approved in the Capital Improvement Plan. A fund could be established to pay for these costs with cash if desired by the Governing Body. However, it would take a significant amount of money annually to implement. It is estimated at least \$1 million, or 1 mill, would be needed to establish this fund. You could save some money by reducing temporary notes and ongoing permanent interest costs, but would need to weigh the cost benefit of raising the mill. Staff would not recommend using a portion of the excess countywide half cent sales tax to establish an engineering fund; without an ongoing revenue source to accompany startup funds, the impact to street improvements would be minimal.

***Supplement #2 dated 6/17/2016 neglected to include the information below related to Neighborhood Relations giveaways. The information pasted below is in addition to what was already included under #3.***

### **#3. (Continued) What are we spending on giveaway items? Have we explored the possibility of these being donated through private partnerships?**

The Neighborhood Relations Community Engagement Division has supplied the following giveaways in the past: Home Repair books; Disaster Kits for various meetings and events; and Invisi Pens (invisible ink security pens for use in the home or business) for various trainings & meetings in the neighborhoods.