



Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date

December 4, 2006

Agenda Item No. 38B

Roll Call No. 06-

Communication No. 06-753

Submitted by: Allen McKinley, Finance
Director and Jeb E. Brewer, P.E., City Engineer

AGENDA HEADING:

Upgrade of Parking And Revenue Control System (PARCS) Equipment in the City Parking Garages (\$525,050).

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval and authorization to purchase and install Parking and Revenue Control System (PARCS) equipment in the amount of \$525,050 for the City parking garages. This equipment must operate seamlessly with the existing control equipment and software. Therefore, it is recommended to be purchased as a sole source item from Federal APD Corporation, 42775 Nine Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375, through their local designated supplier for this region, Access Control Technologies, Inc. (Elizabeth Loffredo, President), 4204 S.W. 9th St., Des Moines, IA 50315.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: Total amount is \$525,050 to furnish and install all equipment. This equipment will include automatic pay-in-lane equipment for four garages, which will result in an estimated \$110,000 per year savings in operating expenses by reducing afternoon cashier staffing hours.

Funding Source: 2006-2007 CIP, Page Parking System Improvement-6, Parking Facility Maintenance Program, PKG016, Parking System Funds (\$477,917) The remaining \$47,133 from Park and Ride funds.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The upgraded equipment for the parking garages will greatly improve the reliability and customer service characteristics of the parking control equipment; will expand the use of technology in the parking system, including payment by credit card; and will substantially reduce annual operating costs. At their November 15 meeting, the Downtown Parking Advisory Committee unanimously approved this proposed upgrading and replacement of the PARCS equipment.

Most of the PARCS equipment in the City Parking Garages is Federal APD equipment that was purchased in approximately 1988. This equipment has been well maintained and some components have been upgraded or replaced; however, much of the equipment is no longer supported by Federal APD because it is well past its life expectancy, and is not compatible with the current PARCS operating software. In addition, the 7th & Grand Parking Garage has non-Federal APD equipment that is incompatible, and is no longer supported by the manufacturer.

The 3rd & Court Garage serves as the operations center for all of the City garages, and has the current version of the Federal APD ScanNet software. The new 8th & Mulberry Garage has all new equipment

and also has the current software version. The equipment in both of these garages can operate from a central computer server located in the City Information Technology Department. This centralized operation allows the use of credit cards and cash at the fully automated 8th & Mulberry Garage, and creates the potential for automation in other locations. Installation of the new equipment and software at the remaining garages will enable them to coordinate with the Downtown Parking Wayfinding Sign System, so real-time parking availability information (FULL, OPEN) will be provided to signs at entrance routes and other locations in the downtown area.

The equipment upgrade will generally include installing new ticket dispensers and “Power Pads” (electronic module that scans the ticket and determines the correct amount due). The 5th & Keo Garage will include new proximity card readers at the entrance and exit gates, which will upgrade all of the garages to this new type of monthly card reader that is much more customer friendly. The 7th & Grand Garage will have complete replacement of card readers, ticket dispensers, gates, etc.

The upgrade will also include new pay-in-lane equipment at four garages: 3rd & Court, 4th & Grand, 7th & Grand and 7th & Center Park & Ride. This equipment will be the same as is in place at the 8th & Mulberry Garage, which is working very well as a fully automated garage. This automatic pay equipment is more customer friendly by allowing the use of cash or credit cards, and will also allow direct payment for late night or overnight parkers, especially hotel customers. Currently, parking customers who exit late at night when the garage is not staffed must place their payment in an envelope and drop it into a pay box at the exit.

The initial cost for the automatic pay-in-lane equipment is approximately \$88,000, but will result in approximately \$110,000 in annual savings by reducing supplemental cashier hours in the afternoon. Each of the four garages will still have a cashier at the exit that can assist a motorist who may experience difficulty with the automatic pay equipment. This arrangement allows us to expand the use of new technology in the parking industry to save operating costs, but still retain the human interaction that many customers desire.

Two of the eight garages are currently operating on the central computer server software, and the majority of the equipment within the parking system can be upgraded to be compatible with this new software by purchasing Federal APD parts and equipment; therefore, Staff recommends that these parts and equipment be purchased as a sole source item in accordance with §2-726(a7) of the municipal code. Staff from the City and Ampco System Parking have worked closely with Federal APD, both the local vendor and the regional office, to assure that the equipment to be upgraded and the pricing are the most cost-effective solution possible. Upgrading of the existing system is much more cost effective than total replacement with a new system. A new system would also require extensive training on operating and maintaining the new equipment and software.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Date: November 15, 2006

Roll Call Number: Downtown Parking Advisory Committee

Action: Unanimously approved recommendation to upgrade PARCS equipment in the City parking garages, including automatic pay-in-lane equipment at four garages.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE