

ITEM# 25  
DATE: 10/13/15

## COUNCIL ACTION FORM

**SUBJECT: SINGLE-SOURCE PURCHASE FOR FY 2015/16 MUTLI-MODAL ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS (MS SEDCO RADAR DETECTION EQUIPMENT)**

### **BACKGROUND:**

A project is programmed in the 2015/16 Multi-Modal Roadway Improvements Program of the Capital Improvements Plan to retrofit four traffic signal installations with radar based detection capable of detecting bicycles. The City of Ames has a standard for vehicle and bicycle detection at all new or replacement traffic signals using the MS Sedco Interceptor radar system. This system was determined to be the best available product through field tests and product demonstrations conducted by the City of Ames Traffic Staff. It should be noted that MS Sedco products, in the Midwest region, are only available from one source, Brown Traffic Products Inc. Currently, there are 77 MS Sedco radar units in use at 22 different intersections Citywide (approximately 33% of the system has been upgraded).

**Standardizing this equipment ensures consistency in the maintenance and operation of traffic signals in the City of Ames.** Staff keeps these vehicle radar detection systems in stock for use during both emergency replacements as well as for normal maintenance activities. In addition, the use of identical products city-wide will result increased efficiencies and savings due to a reduction in ongoing maintenance, stocking, and training costs. Because of these reasons, it is in the City's interest to continue to use MS Sedco radar equipment as the City of Ames standard for vehicle and bicycle detection at all city owned traffic signals.

Currently, the cost for equipping a four-leg signalized intersection is estimated to be \$18,320 (equipment only). The total cost to purchase radar detection for the four intersections identified in FY 2015/16 is estimated to be \$73,280, with \$150,000 from Road Use Tax funds budgeted for these units. **City of Ames Purchasing Polices state that single-source purchases of \$50,000 or more must be approved by City Council.**

### **ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Waive purchasing policies and approve the single-source purchase of four (4) MS Sedco Interceptor radar systems for the FY 2015/16 Multi-Modal Roadway Improvements program at a cost of \$73,280 (for equipment only).
2. Reject the request to waive purchasing polices and direct staff to seek alternative methods for the procurement of bicycle detection.

**MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

The standardization of certain traffic signal equipment used city-wide provides safety and operational benefits as well as cost savings for the City of Ames. Staff will continue to use this standard equipment until such a time that a better field-tested and proven product becomes available in the market.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as noted above.