



City of Emeryville

CALIFORNIA

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 2, 2025

TO: LaTanya Bellow, City Manager

FROM: Jeff Jennings, Chief of Police

SUBJECT: **Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Emeryville Authorizing The City Manager To Accept And Expend A Grant From The California Office Of Traffic Safety, Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) To The Police Department In The Amount Of \$55,000 For Improving Traffic, Bicycle, And Pedestrian Safety Within The City And Increase the FY25/26 Budget By \$55,000**

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the attached resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) in the amount of \$55,000 for traffic safety education and enforcement programs within the City and expend these grant funds to continue education and enforcement of traffic related laws relating to bicycle and pedestrian safety to reduce injury and fatal traffic collisions within the City and Increase the FY25/26 Budget by \$55,000.

BACKGROUND

OTS' mission is to effectively and efficiently administer traffic safety grant funds to reduce traffic deaths, injuries, and economic losses. The grant funding decisions by OTS are facilitated by two types of rankings: injuries and collision rankings and DUI arrest rankings. In addition, these rankings help identify emerging traffic safety problem areas. The rankings compare traffic safety between cities with similar-sized populations and help them identify disproportionate traffic safety problem(s).

To enhance the ability of the Police Department to improve traffic, bicycle, and pedestrian safety in the City, the Police Department applied for and was awarded grant funding by the California Office of Traffic Safety, Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP). This well-established state funding program offers funding to law enforcement agencies for the specific purpose of increasing traffic safety conditions within their jurisdictions. This funding will be used for directed enforcement operations, community outreach presentations, educational material, and for safety giveaways to those in need.

This grant will provide resources to the Police Department for overtime for traffic enforcement operations, officer training, and community outreach presentations. The Police Department expects that this grant will assist in increasing traffic safety for the motoring public, bicyclists, and pedestrians, within the City. Additionally, the grant funds are necessary to enhance our efforts to reduce DUI related traffic collisions. The

enforcement efforts will also concentrate on primary collision factors for traffic collisions, which include driving while impaired (drugs or alcohol), speeding, and red-light violations.

Some of the programs that would be implemented under this grant include:

- DUI saturation patrols
- Distracted driving enforcement
- Red light, intersection, and speed violation enforcements
- Vehicle enforcement for pedestrian and bicycle safety violations
- Highly publicized motorcycle safety enforcement operations
- Provide additional training to officers in the detection DUI drivers
- Community outreach educational presentations focused on traffic and pedestrian safety

The grant also provides funding for officers to provide focused enforcement on traffic related problems and complaints within the community. This program will concentrate on speed violations and distracted driving enforcement, and bicycle safety operations which will target distracted driving. Additional enforcement operations will be directed at locations with a disproportionate number of traffic collisions and where pedestrians and bicyclists' safety are challenged. These strategies are designed to attract media attention, thus enhancing the overall deterrent effect.

Implementation of the STEP program will be accomplished by deploying personnel on a grant funded overtime basis at high collision intersections.

The grant funding received has been broken down into the following funding categories:

- Personnel Overtime Enforcement / Outreach \$50,340
- Officer Training Expenses \$4,660

Additionally, officers will be trained on recognizing impaired driving and investigations. Training will consist of Drug Recognition (DRE), Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) and Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST).

Community outreach educational operations have also been approved in this grant. These programs provide an excellent opportunity for police staff to engage the community in an educational and partnership building environment. Grant awards have shown to have met with very positive feedback from the community, particularly in outreach efforts.

In addition to the enforcement operations, a community awareness program will be utilized. The Police Department will work to create media opportunities throughout the grant period to call attention to the innovative program strategies and outcomes. The Police Department will be required to submit Quarterly Performance Reports and Quarterly Evaluation data forms to OTS.

The grant period is October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026.

DISCUSSION

Accepting this grant award will improve traffic safety in the City, particularly for bicyclists and pedestrians. Officers will focus on enforcement operations specifically designed to target unsafe motor vehicle drivers to increase bicycle and pedestrian safety.

The department anticipates receiving the grant agreement sometime in September 2025, but there is no definite date. No grant operations or expenditures will commence before the grant agreement is approved as to form by the City Attorney's Office and fully executed.

FISCAL IMPACT

The fiscal impact to the City will be the initial expenditure of overtime costs to conduct the various traffic operations. However, since the OTS grant operates through a quarterly reimbursement process, there will be no real impact to the budget. Some minimal police staff time will be required to administer the awarded grant; this staff time is considered part of their normal duties. Because OTS grant funding is based on the federal fiscal year calendar, which begins on October 1 and ends on September 30, the City of Emeryville expenditures will come from FY25/26 and FY26/27 budgets. The personnel costs will be submitted to OTS on a quarterly basis. Depending on the specific dates of the operations and purchases, reimbursements are anticipated to occur primarily during the city's FY25/26 fiscal year.

The Police Department is requesting to increase both the revenues account (254-53650) and expenditures (254-71050) in the grant fund by \$55,000 to accommodate the initial expense and the reimbursement of funds from the State.

STAFF COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC

Staff is planning a targeted media campaign, but have not yet communicated with the public.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

CONCLUSION

This program offers a great opportunity for the City of Emeryville, the Emeryville Police Department and the Emeryville community. Staff recommends accepting the grant award to enhance traffic safety abilities within our community.

PREPARED BY: Andrew Cassianos, Sergeant

**APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EMERYVILLE:**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "LaTanya Bellow", is written over a horizontal line.

LaTanya Bellow, City Manager

ATTACHMENTS

- Draft Resolution
 - Exhibit A – STEP Grant Agreement