

Report by Yvonne Yun, Community Service Manager

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the receipt of a Safer Suburbs Program - Taxi Security Scheme grant of \$95,000 and endorse the project.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise Council of the successful outcome of a Grant application for \$95,000.

REPORT

The Hon. Jason Clare MP has advised Council of the successful outcome of its grant application for \$95,000 under the *Safer Suburbs Program -Taxi Security Scheme*.

Council proposed a project to enhance the security of the Taxi Rank at Flemington Station, in order to improve the use of this facility through improved security and safety for drivers and passengers. The funding also provides for improvements to the pedestrian corridor from the Richmond Road and Centenary Road underpasses. It is envisaged that through enhancing the existing transit route and taxi rank, there will be associated safety improvements for local residents in terms of improved lighting, improved line of site for transit areas and improved informal surveillance by drivers stationery at the rank.

The scope of work and budget approved for this funding is:

1. Additional lighting along the pedestrian corridor	\$73,660
2. Lighted Taxi sign adjacent to rank	\$ 3,600
3. Vandal proof lighting for taxi shelter	\$ 600
4. Vandal proof lighting to underpasses	\$12,000
5. Service locator allowance	\$ 1,000
6. Tree Trimming	\$ 4,140
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	\$95,000

Council will provide *in kind* project management for the project.

Works for the project are to be completed by December, 2013 and an evaluation of the effectiveness of the improvements completed by June, 2014. The project has the support of Taxi Council of NSW, Flemington Chamber of Commerce and NSW Police.

The major crime being targeted through this project is "Steal from Person" and a reduction in the incidence of this offence in the 6 months immediately following the completion of works would be one of the key indicators of success. Traffic usage in terms of taxis will be another measure to be considered in the evaluation of the project.

Council will also work with RMS and CityRail to enhance the project and further improve the outcomes of this project for local residents.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Grant funding of \$95,000 will be expended as outlined in the report.

Expenditure in relation to project management will be met from funding provided in the current budget for salaries.

Report approved by:

Neale Redman
Director Corporate Services