



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Mayor and City Council

**From:** Kenneth M. Griffin, P.E., Director of Engineering and Public Works

**Date:** July 9, 2013

**Reference:** Replace School Zone Flasher Controllers and Solar Upgrades

**2030:** Sustainable City Government, Goal 1  
Excellent City Services with high level of Customer Satisfaction  
Special Place to Live, Goal 4  
Mobility within Coppel

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### Introduction:

The City of Coppel Traffic Division maintains 35 school zone flasher assemblies. Over the past 9 months the school zone flasher controllers have been experiencing multiple failures. The existing system was installed in 2010. It has been determined that the issues with the system are based on communications. The current modem provides constant communications to the 'field' and the 'field' uses the time stamp from the modem to set the current time. If the modem loses communication, the 'field' does not know what time it is and thus cannot turn the flasher on or off as necessary. The problems experienced have not been able to be resolved by the manufacturer and, in fact, the original company has been bought out.

This request is to purchase, and have installed by an outside consultant, school zone flasher controller equipment at 35 locations around town. This request will also convert 9 remaining school zone flashers from AC power to solar. There will be 2 locations that will remain AC powered due to improper location for solar.

### Analysis:

In May 2013, the City of Coppel tested this system at 2 locations. The results were positive. The controller chosen is the RTC Manufacturing AP 22 Time Switch. Additionally, we are purchasing a communications package which will include 10 years of 2-way communications service at each site (currently a mobile to mobile (M2M) short message service (SMS) modem). This communications package will include upgrades due to any future technology changes for 10 years. This system only communicates from the office to the field as new calendar updates are made and occasionally to verify communication. Otherwise it is a basic time clock that has been around for many years. Due

to the size of the new time clock and modem, new cabinets must be installed at each location which are slightly larger than the existing cabinets.

**Legal Review:**

N/A

**Fiscal Impact:**

\$138,743.00

**Recommendation:**

The Engineering Department recommends approval of the purchase of this equipment.

**Caption:**

Consider approval to purchase school zone flasher controllers and hardware for 35 locations from Consolidated Traffic Controls, Inc. through an Interlocal Agreement with Houston Galveston Area Council (H-GAC), in the amount of \$138,743.00; and authorizing the City Manager to sign and execute any necessary documents.