



TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Milton Dohoney Jr., City Administrator

CC: Nick Hutchinson, City Engineer
Malisa McCreedy, Transportation Manager
Jordan Roberts, Public Services Area Administrator
Mariah Walton, Deputy City Administrator

SUBJECT: September 2, 2025 Council Agenda Response Memo

DATE: August 28, 2025

CA-7 – Resolution to Accept Awarded Funds from the University of Michigan for the Advanced Transportation Technology and Innovation “ATTAIN AACE 2.0: The Ann Arbor Connected Environment Reimagined” (\$121,285.00)

Question #1: Can you explain in plain language what this technology is, what it does, and how residents will experience it? Will people notice a change at intersections, or in their cars, or is this more of a behind-the-scenes system? (Councilmember Harrison)

Response: The technology is being developed by a private firm working with the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI). Our role in this research is to provide a testing environment for the Emergency Vehicle Preemption (EVP). The only change travelers may notice would be the traffic signal transitioning during a preemption event for fire trucks. Equipment to be installed in some Ann Arbor Fire Department (AAFD) vehicles would communicate with the traffic signals.

Question #2: What happens to the infrastructure once the research project ends in 2027? Does the City take on responsibility for long-term maintenance? (Councilmember Harrison)

Response: The City will be given the opportunity to decide if AAFD would like to take over ownership of the equipment in vehicle, equipment installed at the traffic signals, and the monitoring software. If the City determines that we are not interested in taking over ownership all new equipment will be removed from City assets.

Question #3: How will the City ensure this doesn't just benefit certain neighborhoods but is deployed equitably across the city? (Councilmember Harrison)

Response: The UMTRI team selected the testing locations to meet the needs of their research with input from the AAFD.

Question #4: What does "intersection certification support" mean in practice? Will the City be responsible if devices malfunction or create safety risks? (Councilmember Harrison)

Response: This task involves confirming that the new equipment will work with the City's traffic controllers and central signal system prior to field installation through bench testing the equipment.

Question #5: How will cybersecurity and privacy be protected in the "firewall" and data transmission systems, especially since this involves connected vehicles? Or is that part of the research? (Councilmember Harrison)

Response: The City's cybersecurity team routinely work the UMTRI research team. The UMTRI team is required to meet our protocol and operate the new system on servers that meet City specifications.

Question #6: How does this align with Vision Zero? (Councilmember Harrison)

Response: UMTRI's research project directly advances *Key Strategy 21: Expand adaptive signal technology and implement connected infrastructure*.