

REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY OF FRESNO

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Let There Be Light! Belmont Street Light Installation

Fresno, CA (October 8, 2007) – Beginning in November 2005, Councilman Henry T. Perea held several community meetings for the business and property owners on Belmont Avenue to address neighborhood concerns. A primary issue raised was the lack of sufficient lighting in the area and its blighting influence. The existing street lights were installed to City standards many years ago, but are out-dated by today's standards. The current street lights are mounted on older wooden poles and spaced too far apart to adequately service Belmont Avenue's property and business owners, and the adjacent residential neighborhoods.

Starting in mid-October, 2007, new street lights will be installed on Belmont from Freeway 41 to Cedar Avenue, a distance of (miles), through a Redevelopment Agency project spearheaded by Councilman Perea. The new street lights will be mounted on new metal poles and the unsightly wooden poles will be removed. The lights will be spaced about 165 feet apart, a significant improvement over the current spacing of about 600 feet.

The Redevelopment Agency is funding the \$592,000 street lighting project that triggers \$4 million of state Public Utility Funds to underground all electrical and communication lines. The project results in new street lights and total under-grounding of utility lines.

The street lights provide better driving visibility by illuminating on-coming traffic and pedestrians, and will also increase public safety by eliminating many "dark spots" along the commercial corridor. The improvements will benefit the entire community and help improve public safety and traffic visibility.

Phase one from Freeway 41 to Cedar is scheduled to be completed by spring 2008. As funds become available, a second phase is planned between Cedar and Chestnut Avenues.

For more information, please call Dave Martin, Redevelopment Agency Project Manager at 559-621-7630.