

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 09/17/24

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 24-0786

LOG NAME: 20RAILROAD CROSSING ELIMINATION GRANT

SUBJECT

(CD 2) Authorize Application for and Acceptance of, if Awarded, a Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant from the Federal Railroad Administration, in the Total Amount Up to \$80,000,000.00, Authorize Execution of a Federal Grant Agreement with the Federal Railroad Administration for the Federal Portion of the Grant in an Amount Up to \$64,000,000.00 for the Connect Fort Worth Stockyards Project and Adopt Appropriation Ordinance

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Authorize the application for and acceptance of, if awarded, the Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant, in the total amount up to \$80,000,000.00 for the design and construction of an above grade crossing at Northeast 23rd Street and Decatur Avenue;
 2. Authorize execution of the Federal Grant Agreement with the Federal Railroad Administration for the Railroad Crossing Fort Worth Elimination Grant in the amount up to \$64,000,000.00; and
 3. Adopt the attached appropriation ordinance increasing estimated receipts and appropriations in the Grants Capital Projects Federal Fund, subject to the receipt of the grant, in an amount up to \$64,000,000.00 for the Federal portion of the grant for the purpose of funding the Connect Fort Worth Stockyards project.
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DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this Mayor and Council Communication (M&C) is to request application for and acceptance of, if awarded, a Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant in the total amount up to \$80,000,000.00 for the design and construction of an above-grade crossing at Northeast 23rd Street and Decatur Avenue (Connect Fort Worth Stockyards Project).

The Federal Railroad Administration is making this discretionary grant available for railroad crossing projects that improve safety and mobility for people and goods. Eligible projects include grade separation and/ or closure of at-grade crossings. The application deadline is September 23, 2024 and it is unknown when the notice of award will be communicated.

Northeast 23rd Street currently crosses 5 different tracks. The proposed bridge will provide access to and from the historic Fort Worth Stockyards. The bridge will also provide increased access to the TexRail Station at Northeast 28th Street. The bridge will cross over all the tracks and connect Northeast 23rd Street to Decatur Avenue and Samuels Avenue. The connection will provide vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian access to the Stockyards and increase safety by eliminating a series of dangerous at-grade crossings.

The City will be responsible for providing a 20% local match or up to \$16,000,000.00 as part of the grant. A separate M & C will be presented to Council once funding has been identified for the grant match requirement. Should no funding be available then the Transportation and Public Works Department will not accept the grant award and be responsible for all costs incurred.

The proposed project is located in COUNCIL DISTRICT 2.

A Form 1295 is not required because: This contract will be with a governmental entity, state agency or public institution of higher education: Federal Railroad Administration

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that upon approval of the above recommendations and adoption of the attached appropriation ordinance, funds will be available in the capital budget, as appropriated, in the Grants Cap Projects Federal Fund. Transportation and Public Works (and Financial Management Services) will be responsible for the collection and deposit of funds due to the City. Prior to an expenditure being incurred, the Transportation and Public Works Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds. This is a reimbursement grant.

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Expedited