



City Council Report

Date: April 7, 2014
To: City Council
Through: Kari Kent, Deputy City Manager
From: Beth Huning, City Engineer
Rob Kidder, Assistant City Engineer
Subject: Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA)
Design Concept Report (DCR) for the Intersection of Germann Road
and Sossaman Road
City Project No. CN0004CAP
District 6

Strategic Initiatives



Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this report is to provide information to the City Council to review and consider approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement (“IGA”) between Maricopa County (“County”), the Town of Queen Creek (“Town”), and the City of Mesa (“City”), to cost share in the development of a Design Concept Report (“DCR”) for the intersection of Germann Road and Sossaman Road. Refer to Exhibit “A” for a project location map.

Staff recommends the City Council approve the Intergovernmental Agreement and the Resolution authorizing the City Manager or his designee to execute the Agreement.

Background

In 2013, the Arizona Department of Transportation, in partnership with the Town of Queen Creek, City of Mesa, Maricopa County, and Pinal County, conducted a corridor improvement study (“Study”) along Germann Road, from Power Road to Ironwood Road. The purpose of the study was to identify necessary future roadway improvements to accommodate forecasted traffic growth and enhance safety for this stretch of Germann Road. The Study presented several recommendations to ensure Germann Road will provide the necessary future capacity and connectivity to area residents and businesses.

One such recommendation from the Study is to conduct a DCR to further define a recommended configuration and/or grade separation of Germann and Sossaman Roads in the vicinity of the Union Pacific Railroad. The DCR will allow further stakeholder and public vetting of potential alternatives prior to the identification of a preferred configuration and associated Right of Way. Based on the jurisdictional breakdown at the intersection of Germann and Sossaman Roads, the Study recommended that the Town, City, and County participate in the development of the DCR.

Discussion

The City, Town, and County desire to enter into an IGA to complete a DCR that will examine potential configuration alternatives at the intersection of Germann and Sossaman Roads. The purpose of the IGA is to identify and define the responsibilities of each Party as they relate to completing the DCR. The Town will act as the lead agency for the DCR and will enter into a contract with an engineering consultant to complete the DCR. All parties shall participate in the process of selecting the consultant, and also the development and selection of a recommended configuration for the future intersection. Participation in this IGA will not commit the City to future participation in another IGA that is related to the DCR.

Alternatives

One alternative would be for the City not to enter into an IGA with the Town and the County. This alternative is not recommended due to the Town and County's willingness to participate in a portion of the overall costs of the DCR. The City's lack of participation may result in the DCR not being completed. Also, if the DCR were to move forward without the City, the City may not be involved in the review process of recommending a preferred intersection configuration.

Fiscal Impact

The total estimated cost of the DCR is \$150,000. The City, Town, and County will be responsible for contributing one-third ($1/3^{\text{rd}}$) of the actual total DCR cost, or \$50,000, whichever is less. The Town shall be responsible for any and all costs that exceed \$150,000. In no such case will the City or the County contribute more than \$50,000 towards the cost of the DCR.

The City's funding contribution for the DCR will come from the Transportation Department's Operating Budget (Local Street Sales Tax).

Coordinated With

The Transportation Department concurs with this recommendation.