



# City Council Report

**Date:** November 23, 2015  
**To:** City Council  
**Through:** Kari Kent, Assistant City Manager  
**From:** Beth Huning, City Engineer  
Rob Kidder, Assistant City Engineer  
**Subject:** Public At-Grade Crossing Improvement Agreement for Dobson Road  
City Project # CP0426  
District 3

## Strategic Initiatives



## Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this report is to provide information to the City Council to review and consider approving a Public Highway At-grade Crossing Improvement Agreement (Agreement) between the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) and the City of Mesa (Mesa). This Agreement defines the roles and responsibilities of both UPRR and Mesa as they relate to the construction of certain railroad safety improvements at Dobson Road (¼ mile south of Main Street). This is a Supplemental Safety Measure (SSM) necessary for the establishment of a “Quiet Zone” along this section of the UPRR. See Exhibit “A” for the location of the improvements.

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the attached Resolution approving and authorizing the City Manager to enter into the Agreement between UPRR and Mesa for railroad safety improvements at Dobson Road.

## Background

On December 17, 2014, the City of Mesa submitted a Notice of Intent to establish a Railroad Quiet Zone along the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) from the Dobson Road grade crossing through the Southern Avenue grade crossing. The Quiet Zone will allow the UPRR to operate trains without sounding the horn for each grade crossing along the main line through Mesa. To establish the Quiet Zone, supplemental safety measures at the Dobson Road grade crossing are required. These measures include the installation of “four-quadrant gates” at the crossing. These additional gates will be funded by the City and installed by the UPRR. The City will be responsible for modifying the sidewalks on the northeast corner of the crossing to accommodate the new gates.

## **Discussion**

The purpose of this Agreement is to define the roles and responsibilities of each party, and to provide for reimbursement from Mesa to the UPRR for the installation of the additional gates.

Following the execution of the Agreement, UPRR will allow Mesa to realign the sidewalk to accommodate the gate installation and then UPRR will construct the gates.

## **Alternatives**

The City Council could choose not to enter into an Agreement with UPRR. Mesa's lack of participation will result in Mesa not being able to provide the necessary safety improvements to establish a Quiet Zone.

This alternative is not recommended due to Mesa's desire to establish the Quiet Zone.

## **Fiscal Impact**

The cost to have UPRR install the gates will be \$551,089. These funds are available from Street Sales Tax.

## **Coordinated With**

The Transportation Department concurs with this recommendation.