



# 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:** An Intergovernmental Agreement between the Arizona Department of Transportation and the City of Mesa for Railroad Safety Improvements at Alma School Road  
City Project # CP0184  
Districts 3 and 4

## Strategic Initiatives



## Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this report is to provide information to the City Council to review and consider approving an Intergovernmental Agreement (“IGA”) between the Arizona Department of Transportation (“ADOT”) and the City of Mesa (“Mesa”). This IGA defines the roles and responsibilities of both ADOT and Mesa as they relate to the construction of certain railroad safety improvements at Alma School Road (¼ mile south of Main Street). 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 IGA between ADOT and Mesa for the proposed railroad safety improvements at Alma School Road.

## Background

In 2008, ADOT’s Utility and Railroad Engineering Section (URR) identified the need for safety improvements at the Alma School Road railroad crossing (Project). The Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) currently owns and operates this railroad crossing. ADOT contacted Mesa about participation in the Railway-Highway Grade Crossing Program (RHGCP). The RHGCP is a federally-funded program to eliminate hazards at public railway-highway grade crossings. Projects eligible for RHGCP funding include crossing consolidations, installation of grade separations at crossings, repair of existing grade separations, new highway-railroad grade crossing signals, upgraded highway-railroad grade crossing signals or circuits, improved crossing surfaces, etc. This program is administrated by the ADOT URR on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

After reviewing the request from ADOT, Mesa agreed to participate and asked ADOT to proceed with the Project on the City's behalf. ADOT URR, acting as the project coordinator, is responsible for coordinating the Project tasks with both UPRR and Mesa. UPRR, through a separate agreement with ADOT, will furnish and install two new cantilevers, four flashing lights/gates (two in the median), and additional concrete surface panels for sidewalk relocation at the at-grade crossing with Alma School Road. Mesa will be responsible for adjusting the existing concrete sidewalks around the proposed cantilevers and gates, and installing concrete medians. It is estimated that the project cost will be \$228,040.00, of which \$208,592.00 will be reimbursed to the City.

## **Discussion**

The purpose of this IGA is to define the roles and responsibilities of each party involved in the Project. Following the federal guidelines, Mesa will perform construction and contract administration duties for its portion of the Project. Mesa is responsible for funding all construction related costs (i.e. construction, construction engineering, traffic control). In turn, ADOT has agreed to reimburse Mesa with federal funds for all eligible related construction costs associated with Mesa's portion of the Project. The amount to be reimbursed by ADOT to Mesa shall not exceed \$208,592.00.

Following the execution of the IGA, Mesa will be responsible for invoicing ADOT for the eligible work that has been completed and providing all necessary backup documentation as requested by ADOT. Upon satisfying these two conditions, ADOT will reimburse Mesa the agreed upon amount.

## **Alternatives**

The City Council could choose not to enter into this IGA with ADOT. Mesa's lack of participation will result in Mesa not receiving the agreed upon reimbursement amount from ADOT. The Project will likely not move forward as Mesa does not have the necessary funding at this time to complete the improvements.

This alternative is not recommended due to the ADOT's willingness to reimburse Mesa 94.3% of the Project cost associated with Mesa's portion of the Project.

## **Fiscal Impact**

ADOT will pay \$208,592.00 and the City will pay \$19,448.00 for the total construction cost of \$228,040.00. The City's portion of the funds are available from the Street Sales Tax.

## **Coordinated With**

The Transportation Department concurs with this recommendation.

