



City Council Report

Date: May 16, 2016
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

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 approve 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 Alma School Road. These improvements are necessary for the safety improvements being constructed at the Alma School crossing. See Exhibit “A” for the location of the improvements.

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

Background

In 2008, the Arizona Department of Transportation’s Utility and Railroad Engineering Section (“ADOT URR”) identified the need for certain safety improvements at the Alma School Road railroad crossing (“Project”). The UPRR currently owns and operates this railroad crossing. ADOT URR contacted Mesa about participation in the Railway-Highway Grade Crossing Program (“RHGCP”). The RHGCP is a federally-funded

program that was developed 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 administered by the ADOT URR on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration. The City Council approved the IGA with ADOT for this project on November 23, 2015.

The Public Highway At Grade Crossing Agreement with UPRR authorizes Mesa to use and maintain UPRR property to install sidewalk and modify the existing medians at the Alma School Road Crossing. It was agreed in the IGA with ADOT that Mesa would be responsible for this portion of the safety improvements.

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 continued use of UPRR property for some of the safety improvements.

Following the execution of the Agreement, UPRR will allow Mesa to adjust the existing sidewalks around the proposed cantilevers and gates and install concrete medians.

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 already agreed to in its IGA with ADOT.

This alternative is not recommended due to Mesa's desire to enhance safety at the crossing under the federal program.

Fiscal Impact

The cost to use the UPRR property for the improvements is \$14,000.00. These funds, as well as any additional costs for flagging, have already been included in the Project budget, which was approved with the IGA with ADOT in November, 2015.

Coordinated With

The Transportation Department concurs with this recommendation.