



AGENDA REPORT

TO: Edward D. Reiskin
City Administrator

FROM: Ryan Russo
Director, OakDOT

SUBJECT: Section 130 Railroad Grade Crossing
Improvement Projects

DATE: May 19, 2020

City Administrator Approval

Date: June 5, 2020

RECOMMENDATION

Staff Recommends That The City Council Adopt The Following Legislation:

1. Resolution Authorizing The City Administrator To Accept And Appropriate Four Hundred Fifty-Six Thousand Two Hundred Twenty-Seven Dollars (\$456,227.00) In Transportation Funds From The State Of California Section 130 Grade Crossing Improvement Program For The Railroad Crossing At 29th Avenue, To Award A Construction Contract To The Lowest Responsive And Responsible Bidder In An Amount Not To Exceed The Grant Amounts, Including Additional Funds From The Funding Agency If Needed, And Authorizing The City Administrator, Or His Designee, The Director Of The Department Of Transportation Or The Assistant Director Of The Department Of Transportation, To Negotiate And Execute Agreements With Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) For Right Of Entry, Crossing Improvements And Maintenance, In Accordance With California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) Regulations At 29th Avenue; And
2. Resolution Authorizing The City Administrator To Accept And Appropriate Two Hundred Fifty-Two Thousand Two Hundred Thirty-Six Dollars (\$252,236.00) In Transportation Funds From The State Of California Section 130 Grade Crossing Improvement Program For The Railroad Crossing At 85th Avenue, To Award A Construction Contract To The Lowest Responsive And Responsible Bidder In An Amount Not To Exceed The Grant Amounts, Including Additional Funds From The Funding Agency If Needed, And Authorizing The City Administrator, Or His Designee, The Director Of The Department Of Transportation Or The Assistant Director Of The Department Of Transportation, To Negotiate And Execute Agreements With Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) For Right Of Entry, Crossing Improvements And Maintenance, In Accordance With California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) Regulations At 85th Avenue; And
3. Resolution Authorizing The City Administrator To Accept And Appropriate Three Hundred Fourteen Thousand Eighty-Five Dollars (\$314,085.00) In Transportation Funds From The State Of California Section 130 Grade Crossing Improvement

City Council
June 16, 2020

Program For The Railroad Crossing At 105th Avenue, To Award A Construction Contract To The Lowest Responsive And Responsible Bidder In An Amount Not To Exceed The Grant Amounts, Including Additional Funds From The Funding Agency If Needed, And Authorizing The City Administrator, Or His Designee, The Director Of The Department Of Transportation Or The Assistant Director Of The Department Of Transportation, To Negotiate And Execute Agreements With Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) For Right Of Entry, Crossing Improvements And Maintenance, In Accordance With California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) Regulations At 105th Avenue.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Oakland has been awarded grants for railroad crossing safety improvements from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) at three high-priority locations, totaling \$1,022,548.00. The locations are at the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) crossings at 29th Avenue, 85th Avenue and 105th Avenue, and were selected based upon historic collision history and the opportunity to make safety improvements. City Council approval is required to accept the grants, and approval of the resolutions will also allow the City Administrator or his designee, to finalize negotiations and execute agreements with UPRR for the subject crossing locations at mutually acceptable terms. The agreements are required as part of the Right of Entry Permit necessary for the construction of Grade Crossing Improvements at 29th Avenue, 85th Avenue, and 105th Avenue.

BACKGROUND / LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Title 23, Section 130 of the United States Code (U.S.C.) provides funding to state and local agencies for projects that eliminate hazards at railroad highway crossings. The State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans) administers and appropriates project funds at the State level through the Section 130 Program. In June 2014, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) and the City jointly applied for Section 130 funding at the three subject crossing locations. The City was notified on July 15, 2015, that the grant was approved. Delivery of the projects was delayed resulting in the grants expiring. New grants for the same locations were approved by Caltrans on July 1, 2019. The City will receive \$456,227.00 and \$252,236.00 and \$314,085.00 for railroad crossing improvements at 29th, 85th and 105th avenue respectively as shown in **Attachment D**.

UPRR will be performing additional crossing improvement work within their trackway to complement the City's work. Now that there are plans to make crossing improvements, UPRR and the City must enter into crossing maintenance agreements to document respective areas of responsibility, consistent with state law, as regulated by the CPUC. Further, UPRR has required, prior to issuing a right-of-entry permit to the City's contractors, that maintenance agreements be executed.

ANALYSIS AND POLICY ALTERNATIVES

In March 2014, CPUC began a review of unimproved railroad crossings citywide for possible safety improvements. The CPUC selected three subject locations based upon accident records as well as the crossing surface and approach conditions.

The proposed improvements at 29th Avenue crossing include:

- Traffic signal modification
- Installation of curb and gutter
- Installation of sidewalks
- Installation of lane separation devices within 100 feet of the railroad tracks
- Installation of detectable warning signs

The proposed improvements at 85th Avenue crossing include:

- Installation of a curb and lane delineation system
- Installation of sidewalks, curb and gutter

The proposed improvements at 105th Avenue crossing include:

- Installation of sidewalks, curb and gutter
- Installation of sidewalks
- Installation of detectable warning signs

The various improvement treatments address pedestrian and vehicular safety and visibility, as well as pedestrian access, and are expected to greatly reduce the likelihood of collisions at these railroad crossings.

The project elements are consistent with the City of Oakland's 2002 Pedestrian Master Plan policy recommendations of increasing pedestrian safety, providing pedestrian access, and providing pedestrian amenities that enhance public spaces. Additionally, the project will improve railroad crossing conditions and connectivity for bicycles using "Complete Streets" design standards in accordance with City Ordinance No. 13153 C.M.S.

FISCAL IMPACT

Approval of these resolutions will authorize the City Administrator or designee to accept and appropriate \$456,227.00 for the 29th Avenue Railroad Crossing, \$252,236.00 for the 85th Avenue Railroad Crossing, and \$314,085.00 for the 105th Avenue Railroad Crossing in transportation funds from the State of California Section 130 Grade Crossing Improvement Program.

Grant funds will be deposited and appropriated to the California Department of Transportation Fund 2140, Traffic Capital Projects Organization (30264), and a new project number will be established. These projects will rehabilitate and reconstruct sidewalks, traffic signal, and install curb and gutter, marking and signs which will reduce the short-term maintenance demand within the projects area.

Long term maintenance costs will be negotiated to the mutual benefit of the City and UPRR; there are no net cost savings or expenditures that are expected to result from the execution of agreements. The responsibilities of both the City and UPRR are regulated by state law, as administered by the CPUC, absent an agreement. The agreements serve to provide documentation to the specific crossing locations to the benefit of all parties.

PUBLIC OUTREACH / INTEREST

These improvements were scoped in consultation with the UPRR and CPUC based upon a data driven methodology that prioritizes crash records, and is administered by the CPUC.

COORDINATION

This report was coordinated with and reviewed by the Budget Bureau and the Office of the City Attorney. The scopes of work for these projects were coordinated with CPUC, UPRR and the City Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Office. The design and construction phase will be coordinated with Public Works Department, Bureau of Engineering and Construction, and Bureau of Infrastructure and Operations.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic: The project will improve roadway user safety resulting in fewer transit delays. For comparison, it is estimated that delays cost Amtrak \$41.9 million annually.

Environmental: The project promotes a safer and healthier crossing for both vehicles and pedestrians at the railroad crossings. The environmental clearance will be processed during the Caltrans Local Assistance process.

Social Equity: The projects will improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists as they cross the Union Pacific Railroad at 29th Avenue, 85th Avenue and 105th Avenue. The Oakland Equity Map shows the disadvantaged population between 40% and 63.9% in the project locations.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Staff Recommends That The City Council Adopt Resolutions Authorizing The City Administrator To:

1. Resolution Authorizing The City Administrator To Accept And Appropriate Four Hundred Fifty-Six Thousand Two Hundred Twenty-Seven Dollars (\$456,227.00) In Transportation Funds From The State Of California Section 130 Grade Crossing Improvement Program For The Railroad Crossing At 29th Avenue, To Award A Construction Contract To The Lowest Responsive And Responsible Bidder In An Amount Not To Exceed The Grant Amounts, Including Additional Funds From The Funding Agency If Needed, And Authorizing The City Administrator, Or His Designee, The Director Of The Department Of Transportation Or The Assistant Director Of The Department Of Transportation, To Negotiate And Execute Agreements With Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) For Right Of

Entry, Crossing Improvements And Maintenance, In Accordance With California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) Regulations At 29th Avenue; And

2. Resolution Authorizing The City Administrator To Accept And Appropriate Two Hundred Fifty-Two Thousand Two Hundred Thirty-Six Dollars (\$252,236.00) In Transportation Funds From The State Of California Section 130 Grade Crossing Improvement Program For The Railroad Crossing At 85th Avenue, To Award A Construction Contract To The Lowest Responsive And Responsible Bidder In An Amount Not To Exceed The Grant Amounts, Including Additional Funds From The Funding Agency If Needed, And Authorizing The City Administrator, Or His Designee, The Director Of The Department Of Transportation Or The Assistant Director Of The Department Of Transportation, To Negotiate And Execute Agreements With Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) For Right Of Entry, Crossing Improvements And Maintenance, In Accordance With California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) Regulations At 85th Avenue; And
3. Resolution Authorizing The City Administrator To Accept And Appropriate Three Hundred Fourteen Thousand Eighty-Five Dollars (\$314,085.00) In Transportation Funds From The State Of California Section 130 Grade Crossing Improvement Program For The Railroad Crossing At 105th Avenue, To Award A Construction Contract To The Lowest Responsive And Responsible Bidder In An Amount Not To Exceed The Grant Amounts, Including Additional Funds From The Funding Agency If Needed, And Authorizing The City Administrator, Or His Designee, The Director Of The Department Of Transportation Or The Assistant Director Of The Department Of Transportation, To Negotiate And Execute Agreements With Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) For Right Of Entry, Crossing Improvements And Maintenance, In Accordance With California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) Regulations At 105th Avenue.

For questions regarding this report, please contact Mohamed Alaoui at DOT, Great Streets at (510) 238-3469.

Respectfully submitted,



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Director, Department of Transportation

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Attachments (4):

- A: *Location Map—29th Avenue Railroad Crossing*
- B: *Location Map—85th Avenue Railroad Crossing*
- C: *Location Map—105th Avenue Railroad Crossing*
- D: *Award Letters*