



CITY OF BANNING STAFF REPORT

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Douglas Schulze, City Manager

PREPARED BY: Nate Smith, Deputy Director of Public Works/City Engineer
Art Vela, Director of Public Works

MEETING DATE: October 8, 2024

SUBJECT: Consideration of Resolution 2024-161, Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Grant Agreement with the Riverside County Transportation Commission for \$5,000,000 in Contribution to the Hargrave Grade Separation Project

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution 2024-161.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Banning has identified in the Capital Improvement Program that a grade separation is necessary at Hargrave Avenue and the Union Pacific Railroad. This railroad crossing is often subject to significant delay when the railroad is occupied with passing or stalled trains. The construction of a grade separation will reduce delay for residents and allow for greater economic development on the east end of the City.

To move the project forward, the City applied for and was awarded a \$2,800,000 grant from the Federal Railroad Administration Railroad Crossing Elimination grant program, funded by the Infrastructure Improvement and Jobs Act of 2017. The City has entered into a grant agreement with the FRA to administer this funding for the planning and design of the grade separation.

Subsequent to this funding award, the Riverside County Transportation Commission has offered to the City an addition \$5,000,000 in grant funding through the SB125 Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program for the grade separation planning and design work phase. The grant agreement is included as an attachment to this staff report. With this additional contribution, the grant funding available for the planning and design work totals \$7,800,000.

The Public Works Department estimates that the planning and design work will take 3 to 4 years to complete, and include coordination and approvals from various entities including the Union Pacific Railroad, Federal Railroad Administration, Federal Highways Administration, Caltrans, California Public Utilities Commission, private utility holders, among others. The estimate budget for the project is \$8,300,000, with the difference being made up from local Development Impact Fee funds.

The City has released an RFP for the planning and design work through the City online bid portal, and expects to bring back to council future actions in the award to a consultant for the planning and design in December, 2024 or January, 2025.

JUSTIFICATION:

The City Council has approved a Capital Improvement Program that includes the Hargrave Grade Separation project. This additional funding allows for the project to continue through the planning and design phase without anticipated funding gaps that existed prior to the award of this grant.

FISCAL IMPACT:

In addition to the previous \$2,800,000 grant from the Federal Railroad Administration, the environmental review and design phase of the project will have a total of \$7,800,000 of grant funding available. This funding will allow the environmental review and design phase to move forward with less City Impact Fees required.

ALTERNATIVES:

Do not authorize the grant agreement and direct staff on alternative direction

BUDGETED?:

No

CONTRACT/AGREEMENT:

Yes

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [Resolution 2024-161, SB125 Hargrave Grade Separation.docx](#)
2. [Exhibit A - RCTC-Banning SB125 Agreement.pdf](#)