



CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

ITEM NO. 6.2

DATE: January 26, 2026

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Brent Smith, Community Development Director

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with Alameda County Transportation Commission and Construction and Maintenance Agreements with Union Pacific Railroad and Alameda County Transportation Commission for the construction of the L Street and Junction Avenue railroad crossings as part of the Rail Safety Enhancement Program – Phase A Project of Alameda County Transportation Commission and Livermore SM2025-22.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends the City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) for construction of the L Street and Junction Avenue railroad crossings as part of the Rail Safety Enhancement Program – Phase A Project of Alameda CTC and Livermore SM202522, a Construction and Maintenance (C&M) agreement with Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) and Alameda CTC for L Street, and a C&M Agreement with UPRR and Alameda CTC for Junction Avenue.

DECISION TYPE

Administrative

SUMMARY

Alameda CTC is the Project Sponsor and Implementing Agency for the Rail Safety Enhancement Program – Phase A (RSEP-A) Project. The RSEP-A Project will construct at-grade crossing pedestrian and roadway safety improvements at 26 at-grade crossings and 2 trespass locations throughout Alameda County, including the L Street and Junction Avenue at-grade crossings in the City of Livermore. Attachment 1 shows the locations of the Livermore crossings. The construction MOU and 2 C&M Agreements are required for Alameda CTC to complete the Right-of-Way Certification allowing Alameda CTC to obtain grant funding for construction.

DISCUSSION

The RSEP-A Project addresses an urgent safety need along several Alameda County rail corridors and was developed as an outgrowth from the 2016 Countywide Goods Movement Plan and the 2018 Rail Strategy Study which prioritized at-grade crossings in Alameda County. RSEP-A will install proven safety measures recommended by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) as the safety regulatory agency, UPRR and the local jurisdiction and aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Improve safety for all users by reducing trespass collisions at railroad crossings
- Improve safety of rail operations
- Improve efficiency and reliability of freight operations
- Close gaps and remove barriers in multimodal transportation network
- Encourage shift to active transportation modes

The proposed improvements at the Livermore at-grade crossings at L Street and Junction Avenue include the following elements:

- New concrete track panels required for the added pedestrian infrastructure
- Upgraded train-activated vehicle gate arms and flashing light signals
- New train-activated pedestrian gate arms and flashing light signals
- Manual emergency swing gates
- Upgraded advance railroad warning pavement markings and signage
- New sidewalk
- New railing for pedestrians
- Detectable warning surfaces to alert people with disabilities
- Fencing to prevent trespassing in a dangerous train environment
- Median islands to prevent driving around activated gates during a train event
- Street lighting upgrades

RSEP-A has secured \$80 million of external grant funding for the construction phase [\$25 million from the Federal Railroad Administration's Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program, \$25 million from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Regional Measure 3 Program and \$30 million from the California Transportation Commission's (CTC) Senate Bill 1 Trade Corridor Enhancement Program]. RSEP-A will be delivered in multiple-phased construction packages and will use the alternative Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC) delivery method which allows for early contractor engagement and a streamlined construction procurement process.

The grade crossings in the City of Livermore and the City of Hayward are part of the first construction package. Alameda CTC has awarded the Construction Management contract to WSP USA, Inc., and a pre-construction services contract for CM/GC services with Clark Construction. Alameda CTC is working with City of Livermore staff before and during construction to provide sufficient noticing and coordination with transit operators, stakeholders and the public. Securing funding from the external agencies is required to award the construction phase of the contract. Alameda CTC anticipates the following project milestones for Package 1 of RSEP-A:

- Right-of-Way Certification – March 2026
- Ready to List – March 2026
- CTC Meeting to Construction Funding – May 2026
- Award Construction Contract – June 2026
- End Construction for Livermore crossings – June 2027

The MOU with Alameda CTC defines the respective roles and responsibilities between the agencies during the construction phase. The C&M Agreements with UPRR and Alameda CTC define the construction and maintenance roles and responsibilities between the agencies. UPRR is responsible for constructing the track panel and signal work within UPRR right-of-way. Alameda CTC is responsible for all costs associated with UPRR's construction work which includes constructing the concrete track panels and vehicle and pedestrian gate signals and license fees since the project requires additional UPRR right-of-way for the improvements. The City of Livermore is responsible for making annual payments to UPRR for maintenance of improvements by UPRR between the track tie ends and for maintenance of the new improvements outside the track tie ends after the project is constructed.

These agreements are necessary for Alameda CTC to complete the Right-of-Way Certification which is a required document to achieve Ready-to-List and secure funding for construction from the CTC. Therefore, staff recommends the City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute the necessary agreements required for construction of the RSEP-A Project.

FISCAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE IMPACTS

Funding for the Railroad Crossings at Junction Avenue and L Street Project SM202522 is included in the 2025-2030 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), with \$40,000 of Gas Tax Fund 560 in Fiscal Year 2025-26, \$80,000 of Gas Tax Fund 560 in Fiscal Year 2026-27, and \$40,000 of Gas Tax Fund 560 in Fiscal Year 2027-28. As Alameda CTC is the project sponsor and the implementing agency, the funding included in the Livermore 2025-2030 CIP is just for supporting services from City of Livermore staff such as design review and construction inspections. No additional appropriations are necessary for the project.

However, as indicated in the C&M Agreements, effective as of three years from effective date of the Agreements or the date of installation and/or the in-service date of the new and/or improved or existing Grade Crossing Signal System, the City of Livermore is responsible to pay UPRR \$3,125 per year per crossing, for a total of \$6,250, payable annually in advance, as payment for UPRR's maintenance of the Signal System that is installed at Junction Avenue and L Street at-grade crossings. UPRR will increase such annual signal maintenance fee by 3% to account for future cost increases. This adjustment may be made by means of automatic adjustment in billing. These future maintenance costs will be included in the annual maintenance budget of the Public Works Department.

COMMUNITY PILLAR

1: A Safe Community That Thrives.

GOAL

10: Work to maintain a safe and efficient local transportation network and address safety concerns.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Location Map
2. Resolution

3. Exhibit A - MOU
4. Exhibit B - L Street C&M Agreement
5. Exhibit C - Junction Avenue C&M Agreement

Prepared by: Joanna Liu
Senior Transportation Engineer

Approved by:



Marianna A. Burch
City Manager

Fiscal Review by:



Tina Olson
Administrative Services Director