LIVERMORE
CALIFORNIA

CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT **ITEM NO. 6.23**

DATE: September 14, 2026

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Benny Stuth, Airport Manager

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a Grant Agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) accepting $35,435 for the Vehicle Movement Area Transponder (VMAT) Purchase and Installation Project, add the project to the City's Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan, and appropriate the necessary funds to complete the project.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends the City Council adopt a resolution to:

1. Authorizes the City Manager, or designee, to execute the Federal Aviation Administration Airport Improvement Program Grant Agreement to accept $35,435 for the Vehicle Movement Area Transponder (VMAT) Purchase and Installation Project;
2. Adds the FAA Vehicle Movement Area Transponder (VMAT) Purchase and Installation Project AR202721 to the 2025-2030 Capital Improvement Plan;
3. Appropriates $35,435 in Federal Aviation Administration Airport Improvement Program grant funds to Capital Improvement Project AR202721 for the FAA Vehicle Movement Area Transponder (VMAT) Purchase and Installation Project;
4. Appropriates $1,865 from the Livermore Municipal Airport Enterprise Fund to Capital Improvement Project AR202721 for the FAA Vehicle Movement Area Transponder (VMAT) Purchase and Installation Project to provide the required local match for the project; and,
5. Authorizes the City Manager to take whatever actions are necessary and appropriate to carry out the purpose and intent of this resolution, including making minor , in changes which shall be approved as to form by the City Attorney or her designee, to the grant funding documents.

SUMMARY

The Vehicle Movement Area Transponder (VMAT) Purchase and Installation Project will equip eligible Airport operations vehicles with transponders that integrate with the FAA's recently installed Surface Awareness Initiative (SAI) system, a runway safety program designed to provide real-time information about vehicles moving on the surface of the Airport. The project will improve the identification and tracking of vehicles operating on the airfield, enhance situational awareness, and support efforts to

reduce the risk of runway incursions.

Following completion of the SAI installation, the Airport became eligible for FAA funding for VMAT equipment. The FAA subsequently identified a funding opportunity and selected the Airport's VMAT project for funding. Approval of this item will add Project AR202721 to the City's Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan and authorize the City Manager, or her designee, to accept and execute the FAA Grant Agreement, and appropriate funding necessary to complete the project.

DISCUSSION

Airport Improvement Program and Vehicle Movement Area Transponders

The Livermore Municipal Airport is a public-use airport owned and operated by the City of Livermore (City or Airport Sponsor). The City undertakes routine capital infrastructure and safety projects to maintain the Airport and keep it operational. The FAA regularly provides grant funds to local airports for eligible infrastructure and safety projects through its Airport Improvement Program (AIP).

In April 2026, the Livermore Municipal Airport completed installation of the FAA's Surface Awareness Initiative (SAI) system, a runway safety program designed to provide real-time information about vehicles moving on the surface of the Airport. Completion of the SAI installation made the Airport eligible for FAA funding purchase and install Vehicle Movement Area Transponders (VMATs) on eligible Airport operations vehicles.

Vehicles equipped with VMATs are able to be identified and tracked within the surface-awareness system, providing air traffic controllers and Airport personnel with improved situational awareness of vehicle movements on the airfield. The proposed project will purchase and install VMAT equipment on eligible Airport vehicles, complementing the recently installed SAI system and supporting the Airport's ongoing efforts to improve movement-area safety and reduce the risk of runway incursions.

Selection and Grant Requirements

In October 2024, the FAA expanded AIP eligibility to include the purchase and installation of VMAT equipment at eligible airports. On July 14, 2026, the FAA notified Airport staff that additional AIP funding was available for eligible VMAT projects and requested submission of a completed preapplication by July 15, 2026. Staff completed the preapplication, which did not obligate the City to proceed with the project.

On August 12, 2026, the FAA notified Airport staff that the VMAT Purchase and Installation Project had been selected for funding and that the Grant Agreement would be transmitted electronically in September 2026. In order to receive the grant funds, the City must:

1. Program the project into the local Capital Improvement Plan (CIP);
2. Provide the required local funds match;
3. Enter into a Grant Agreement by the acceptance deadline established by the FAA, as authorized by the local legislative body; and,
4. Agree to the applicable FAA Grant Assurances.

Unlike the Airport's other FAA grant projects recently added to the City's Five-Year CIP, the VMAT project had not yet been selected for funding when those projects were advanced for City Council

consideration. Because FAA selection occurred after the applicable capital planning process, the VMAT project was not previously included in the City's Five-Year CIP. Accordingly, this action includes the addition of VMAT Project AR202721 to the CIP.

The Grant Agreement must be accepted and executed as directed by the FAA, to remain eligible for funding. Failure to obtain City Council authorization and timely execute the Grant Agreement would result in the loss of this funding opportunity and delay the project until at least the next federal funding cycle in approximately one year. It is the understanding of staff that the Grant Agreement will be transmitted and require execution on or before September 30, 2026, the last day of the federal fiscal year.

Next Steps

The City has not yet received the Grant Agreement, and, based on correspondence with the FAA, staff believes the Grant Agreement may not be received until several days before the submission deadline. To prepare for this, Airport staff provided relevant departments with a sample Grant Agreement (Exhibit A to the Resolution) for advance review of the FAA's standard grant language. FAA grant awards are issued using the FAA's standard Grant Agreement and are not subject to negotiation or modification by the City, so the sample agreement serves as a useful proxy for the final agreement. Should the Grant Agreement be transmitted in time, it will be added as supplemental material.

Upon receipt, Airport staff will provide the Grant Agreement to the City Attorney's Office and the Administrative Services Department for legal and financial review. Following completion of the review and City Council approval of the grant resolution, the City Manager, or designee, would execute the Grant Agreement.

The project will allow the Airport to leverage available federal funding to enhance the recently installed SAI system while improving situational awareness and safety for aircraft and vehicles operating on the airfield.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The acceptance of FAA grant funds and appropriation of those funds to purchase and install Vehicle Movement Area Transponders (VMATs) does not constitute a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Section 21065 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15378. The purchase and installation of VMATs does not have the potential for resulting in either a direct or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change to the environment. Therefore, no environmental review under CEQA is required.

FISCAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE IMPACTS

Funding for the FAA Vehicle Movement Area Transponder (VMAT) Purchase and Installation Project is anticipated to consist of FAA Airport Improvement Program grant funds and Airport Enterprise Funds. As shown in the table below, total project costs are estimated to be $37,300, with $35,435 in Federal Grant Funds (Fund 601) and $1,865 in Airport Enterprise Funds (Fund 600) to satisfy the required local match.

Fund	FY 25/26	FY 26/27	FY 27/28	FY 28/29	FY 29/30	FY 30/31	Total

Airport Enterprise Fund (600)	0	$1,865	0	0	0	0	$1,865
Federal Grant-Airport (601)	0	$35,435	0	0	0	0	$35,435
Total	0	$37,300	0	0	0	0	$37,300

COMMUNITY PILLAR

5. A City That Works

GOAL

14. Develop, operate, and maintain the City's infrastructure.

ATTACHMENTS

1. FAA Application - VMAT
2. City CIP Project Sheet
3. Resolution
4. Exhibit A - Sample Grant Agreement

Prepared by: Benedict Stuth
Airport Manager

Approved by:

Marianna A. Burch
City Manager

Fiscal Review by:

Kristen Hilton
Acting Administrative Services Director