

CITY OF SAN MATEO
RESOLUTION NO. _____(2022)

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PROJECT STUDY REPORT, PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING DESIGNS, AND ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING DOCUMENTATION FOR THE DOWNTOWN SAN MATEO GRADE SEPARATIONS PROJECT AND SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE FY2022 RAILROAD CROSSING ELIMINATION GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the City of San Mateo (Sponsor) is served by Caltrain, which provides commuter rail services along a corridor extending from the City and County of San Francisco to the City of Gilroy; and

WHEREAS, twenty-eight at-grade rail crossings (places where local streets cross the railroad tracks) exist along Caltrain's corridor in San Mateo County; eight are located in the City of San Mateo, the most of any city along the corridor; and six of which are in downtown San Mateo; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Railroad Administration has recognized grade crossing incidents to be the second leading cause of rail-related fatalities in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Caltrain plans to increase its commuter rail service from 92 trains per day to 360 trains per day by 2040, resulting in gate downtimes at the at-grade crossings for up to 45 minutes during the peak hours, which will increase safety concerns and impede mobility between historically underserved communities and economic, job and services centers located in downtown San Mateo; and

WHEREAS, the Sponsor has identified the need for grade separations at 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 9th Avenues in the core of downtown San Mateo to address these safety concerns, minimize future negative impacts from Caltrain's increase in service, including gate downtime, and to re-connect neighboring communities; and

WHEREAS, the Sponsor has developed the Downtown San Mateo Grade Separations project which requires the development of a project study report, including preliminary engineering plans, and environmental planning documents (Project) for the grade separations in the downtown rail corridor; and

WHEREAS, currently it is estimated to cost \$8,000,000 to implement the Project scope; and

WHEREAS, the Sponsor will seek \$6,000,000 in federal grant funding for the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the Secretary of Transportation issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Department of Transportation's National Infrastructure Investments (i.e., the Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE)) Grant Program under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act ("Bipartisan Infrastructure Law") on July 6, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Sponsor supports the incorporation of environmentally sustainable design practices in the Project and in the future construction phase of the Downtown San Mateo Grade Separations project; and

WHEREAS, the Sponsor recognizes that the use of highly skilled labor benefits the community and thus supports the use of apprenticeship programs and collective bargaining agreements between the contractor and trade unions in the future construction phase of the Downtown San Mateo Grade Separations project; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation requires a governing board resolution from the Sponsor for the following items:

1. Authorizing the Project and application for \$6,000,000 in RCE Grant Program funds for the Project;
2. Committing the Sponsor to the completion of the Project, including the commitment of matching funds currently estimated to be \$2,000,000 for implementation; and
3. Authorizing the chief executive of the Sponsor, or his/her designee, to sign a funding agreement with the U.S. Department of Transportation, if funds are awarded, for the Project and to take any other actions necessary to give effect to this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN MATEO, CALIFORNIA, HEREBY RESOLVES that:

1. The commitment to matching funds for and completion of a project study report, preliminary engineering designs, and environmental planning documents, and authorization of a grant fund application is not a project subject to CEQA. This is because the Project is a government fiscal activity which does not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment, and because it involves administrative activities that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment. (CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4), (b)(5).)
2. City staff is directed to submit an application for RCE Grant Program funds for \$6,000,000 for the project study report, preliminary engineering designs, and environmental planning documents for the Downtown San Mateo Grade Separations project.
3. The City Manager, or his designee, is authorized to execute a funding agreement with the U.S. Department of Transportation to encumber any funds awarded.
4. The City commits to the completion of the Project, including the commitment of the estimated \$2,000,000 in matching funds needed for implementation, if awarded the requested funds.
5. The City certifies that any funds awarded by the U.S. Department of Transportation will be used to supplement existing funds for the Project and will not replace existing funds or resources.
6. City staff is authorized to take any other actions necessary to give effect to this resolution.