



CITY OF SAN MATEO

City Hall
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Agenda Report

Agenda Number: 11

Section Name: {{section.name}}

File ID: {{item.tracking_number}}

TO: City Council

FROM: Drew Corbett, City Manager

PREPARED BY: Public Works Department

MEETING DATE: November 16, 2020

SUBJECT:

4th and 5th Avenue Railroad Grade Crossings Project Funding – Agreements

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution to approve funding agreements with California State Department of Transportation for the Section 130 Improvement Projects at 4th and 5th Avenues Grade Crossings for the Preliminary Engineering Phase; and authorize the Public Works Director to execute the agreements in substantially the form presented.

BACKGROUND:

As presented in the January 6, 2020 City Council update on train horn noise, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has recommended two safety improvement projects at the 4th Avenue and 5th Avenue railroad crossings to install four-quadrant gates at each location, to be funded by the Railroad-Highway Grade Crossing Program (RHGCP) – Section 130 Guidelines. These projects will not qualify San Mateo for a quiet zone, but the grade crossing improvements are considered supplemental safety measures (SSMs) that incrementally contribute toward achieving a quiet zone. The new gates will reduce the risk of collisions and thus lower the need to sound horns.

The project improvements are located primarily within Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (JPB/Caltrain) railroad right of way, with minor construction within City right-of-way. Each agency is responsible for implementing the improvements within its right-of-way.

The agreements with California State Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for the Preliminary Engineering (Design) phase, one for each project location, are required to authorize the City to be reimbursed with federal funds administered by Caltrans for design of improvements in City right-of-way. The JPB/Caltrain will execute separate agreements with Caltrans for design of its improvements within the railroad right-of-way.

City staff anticipates completing the full design phase for its portion under the Preliminary Engineering agreements during spring 2021. JPB/Caltrain improvements are more extensive and design is anticipated to be complete during fall 2021. Upon completion of the design phase, staff will return to Council for approval of the funding agreements for the construction phase.

BUDGET IMPACT:

Caltrans will be responsible for the cost of its staff time incurred for project oversight under these agreements. The City will incur and initially pay its own costs for design of the improvements within City right-of-way. Individual funding agreements will be executed for each phase of the projects. Upon execution of the funding agreements, the City is authorized to begin invoicing for reimbursement, typically on a quarterly basis. City staff costs are currently funded by Train Quiet Zone Project (#462205) at an estimated rate of \$10,000 per quarter. There are sufficient funds to support design work prior to reimbursement.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:

The projects qualifies as Categorical Exempt under Section 15301 of the CEQA Guidelines. In addition, Caltrans determined that the projects meet the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) definition of Categorical Exclusion as defined under 23 CFR 771.117 (c), activity (c)(8).

NOTICE PROVIDED

All meeting noticing requirements were met.

ATTACHMENTS

Att 1 – Proposed Resolution

Att 2 – Agreement for 4th Avenue Railroad Crossing

Att 3 – Agreement for 5th Avenue Railroad Crossing

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