



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 16

Agenda Date: June 20, 2024

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Public Works Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Razi Hosseini

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: District 2

SUBJECT:

Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) Reimbursement Agreement – Rittiman Road Grade Separation

SUMMARY:

An ordinance authorizing the execution of a Reimbursement Agreement between the City of San Antonio and the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) in an amount not to exceed \$75,000.00 for Preliminary Engineering Services to be performed by UPRR for the Rittiman Road Grade Separation Project, a federally funded project, located in Council District 2. Funds are available from prior debt proceeds included in the FY 2024 – FY 2029 Capital Improvements Program.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On June 5, 2023, the City of San Antonio was selected by the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) for an award of \$4.8 million in federal grant funding for the design and environmental review of an overpass to eliminate a Union Pacific railroad crossing at Rittiman Road and Gibbs Sprawl Road.

An estimated 52,000 residents, 22,700 employees, and 3,400 students live, work, and go to school within two miles of this railroad crossing. Rittiman Road is an important west-east arterial

roadway connecting Joint Base San Antonio, H-E-B Grocery Distribution Headquarters, and other destinations. Completing the design and environmental review will position this project to compete for future construction funding opportunities. Once constructed, this project is estimated to eliminate traffic congestion at the railroad crossing by as much as 40% during peak periods in the future.

ISSUE:

This ordinance authorizes the execution of a Reimbursement Agreement in an amount not to exceed \$75,000.00 between the City of San Antonio and the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) for Preliminary Engineering Services to be performed by UPRR for the Rittiman Road Grade Separation Project. Funds are available from prior debt proceeds included in the FY 2024 – FY 2029 Capital Improvements Program.

A component of the Rittiman Road Grade Separation Project is building a four-lane grade separation with a sidewalk over the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR). Another component is realigning Gibbs Sprawl at this intersection.

Once funded for construction, the grade separation will eliminate an at-grade highway-rail crossing at Rittiman Road (USDOT #764362W), which is blocked multiple times per day due to high train volume and rail operations in the nearby UPRR Kirby Yard.

The proposed Reimbursement Agreement for Preliminary Engineering Services allows UPRR to coordinate with the City and begin engineering design services for the grade separation project. Through this agreement, the City will reimburse UPRR not exceeding \$75,000.00 for these design services within their ROW that are necessary to complete the Rittiman Road Grade Separation Project. Design completion is anticipated in late 2026, pending the City Council's approval of the proposed agreement.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternatively, City Council could choose not to approve this ordinance; however, the City would lose the opportunity to coordinate with UPRR to provide the necessary improvements to the railroad crossing on Rittiman Road potentially delaying overall project completion and compromising anticipated grant funding.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is a one-time capital improvement expenditure not to exceed \$75,000.00 payable to The Union Pacific Railroad Company for Preliminary Engineering Services to be performed by UPRR for the Rittiman Road Grade Separation Project. Funds are available from prior debt proceeds included in the FY 2024 – FY 2029 Capital Improvements Program.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of this ordinance authorizing the execution of a Reimbursement Agreement between the City of San Antonio and the Union Pacific Railroad Company in the amount not to exceed \$75,000.00 for Preliminary Engineering Services to be performed by UPRR for the Rittiman Road Grade Separation project.