



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 19

Agenda Date: November 18, 2021

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Public Works Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Razi Hosseini

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: District 5

SUBJECT:

Authorization for Crossing Improvements Agreement with Union Pacific Railroad Company:
West Commerce Street (Frio Street to Colorado Street) (2017 Bond Project)

SUMMARY:

An ordinance approving an Authorization for Crossing Improvements Agreement with Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) and authorizing payment in an amount not to exceed \$162,667.50 to UPRR for railroad crossing improvements on West Commerce Street frontage roads in relation to the West Commerce Street (Frio Street to Colorado Street) project in Council District 5. Funds are available from the 2017 - 2022 General Obligation Bond Program and are included in the FY 2022 - FY 2027 Capital Improvement Program.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Project Background

On May 6, 2017, voters approved the 2017 Bond Program, which authorized \$10,000,000.00 for street and drainage work in relation to the West Commerce Street (Frio Street to Colorado Street) project located in Council District 5. The design for this project was developed in coordination with Council District 5, Public Art San Antonio, the San Antonio River Authority, Union Pacific Railroad and the surrounding community. Through an extensive public engagement process, input

was obtained from the community to identify improvements to help serve existing businesses, spur economic development opportunities and improve connectivity and mobility to create more pedestrian and business-friendly areas within the West Commerce Street Corridor.

This project provides for the reconstruction of West Commerce Street from Frio Street to Colorado Street, including the addition of bike facilities, pedestrian lighting, landscaping and drainage improvements to Alazan Creek. Also included are joint-bid utility work and structural bridge improvements to the Commerce Street, Buena Vista Street and Guadalupe Street bridges. Construction began in January 2021 and is estimated to be completed in November 2022.

As part of the construction of this project, improvements are needed to the railroad crossings on either side of the tracks located on the West Commerce frontage road. This agreement authorizes access to the Contractor within UPRR right of way for completion of the required improvements for the West Commerce Street (Frio Street to Colorado Street) project and authorizes payment to UPRR for these improvements and 50% of the total cost. Upon approval of the agreement, work on the rail crossings is anticipated to begin by January 2022.

ISSUE:

This ordinance approves the execution of the Authorization for Crossing Improvements Agreement with Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) for the West Commerce Street (Frio Street to Colorado Street) project and authorizes payment in an amount not to exceed \$162,667.50 to UPRR for railroad crossing improvements at the West Commerce Street frontage roads in Council District 5.

This agreement with UPRR will authorize improvements to the railroad crossings on the West Commerce frontage roads within UPRR right-of-way between North Medina Street and North Comal Street. The improvements include the replacement of the double-track crossing surfaces, railroad ties and associated roadway improvements on either side of the existing tracks. The total cost of these improvements is estimated to be \$325,335.00. As part of this agreement, the City will reimburse UPRR for these improvements and 50% of the total cost in an amount not to exceed \$162,667.50.

ALTERNATIVES:

City Council could choose not to approve the execution of the Authorization for Crossing Improvements Agreement and payment to UPRR. However, UPRR can then deny the West Commerce contractor access to their right-of-way, which would prevent the completion of the project.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance requests City Council action to execute the Authorization for Crossing improvements Agreement with UPRR and authorizes a one-time capital improvement expenditure in an amount not to exceed \$162,667.50 payable to Union Pacific Railroad

Company. Funds are available from the 2017 - 2022 General Obligation Bond Program and are included in the FY 2020 – FY 2025 Capital Improvement Program.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends executing the Authorization for Crossing Improvements Agreement with UPRR for the West Commerce Street (Frio Street to Colorado Street) project and authorizes payment in an amount not to exceed \$162,667.50 for railroad crossing improvements on the West Commerce Street frontage roads in Council District 5.