

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

Dillon Willett, Project Manager
Dana Hornkohl, Director, Civil Engineering
Brad Buckman, City Engineer

SUBJECT

First Reading of Ordinance No. 012, 2025, Making Supplemental Appropriations from the Colorado Department of Transportation Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Grant and Authorizing Transfers from the Conservation Trust Fund for the Power Trail and Harmony Grade Separated Crossing Project.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to enable the City to receive and expend federal pass-thru funds for the Power Trail and Harmony Grade Separated Crossing Project (the Project). The funds will be used for construction of a pedestrian and bicycle underpass located approximately 500 feet west of the intersection of Harmony Road and Union Pacific Railroad. If approved this item will appropriate \$3,239,300 of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant funds for the Project. Additionally, this item will transfer \$1,600,000 in Conservation Trust Funds to the Capital Project Fund for the Project

Previously appropriated funds will be used for local match requirements.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Ordinance on First Reading.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The Project will design, acquire any necessary right-of-way for, and construct a trail underpass for the Power Trail crossing at Harmony Road. A separate project will construct trail connections north and south of Harmony Road to connect the underpass with the existing Power Trail.

The current route for the Power Trail directs bicycles and pedestrians to use the City roadway network north and south of Harmony Road, and to cross Harmony Road at-grade at McMurry Avenue. Several residential neighborhoods are south of Harmony Road near the Project location, and several destinations are north of Harmony Road including multiple schools, businesses, a park and a golf course. The existing at-grade crossing has been the scene of several severe crashes involving vulnerable road users in recent years, even resulting in a cyclist fatality. This Project will complete the last gap in the Power Trail, providing connectivity from the Poudre River Corridor to the Big Thompson Corridor. The City is also working through design and construction of multiple projects to connect the Power Trail to the local trail network and residential communities in southeast Fort Collins, including the pedestrian overpass crossing the Union

Pacific Railroad tracks south of Harmony Road connecting the Mail Creek Trail heading east to Bacon Elementary, a future school side park, and several existing communities via an underpass of Timberline Road. Additionally, several residential developments near the Power Trail are in design and construction, adding to future trail demand and potential diversion of vehicle trips. Finally, the Power Trail is regionally significant and identified in the North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization (NFRMPO) Regional Active Transportation Plan as part of the Front Range Trail (West) adopted in July 2021.

In 2016, the City applied for and was awarded \$800,000 through a federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant. These TAP funds were awarded to the City, programmed for FY2020, through the NFRMPO and CDOT for the construction of the Project (Attachment 4).

In 2022, the City was awarded a CMAQ grant for \$2,700,000. These CMAQ funds were awarded to the City, programmed for FY2023-FY2024 through the NFRMPO and CDOT for the construction of the Project (Attachment 5 – Note the \$2.7 million corresponds to CMAQ funding for FY2023, FY2024 and FY2025).

In 2023, the City applied for and was awarded \$3,239,300 in additional CMAQ funds through the NFRMPO (Attachment 2). These funds are required to complete construction of the Project planned for 2025.

Conservation Trust Funds are used to support the growth of the City’s paved trail network. The Project will construct a key piece of this network. As such, \$1.6M in funding will be transferred from the Conservation Trust Funds to the Project. Use of these funds will be monitored by both Engineering and Parks staff.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

This item appropriates \$4,839,000 to support the Power Trail and Harmony Grade Separated Crossing Project from:

- \$3,239,300 in unanticipated CMAQ funds (17.21% local match to be met with previously appropriated CCIP funds) and
- \$1,600,000 in Conservation Trust Funds.

The CMAQ funds apply on a reimbursement basis, meaning Capital Project Funds expenses will be reimbursed up to \$3,239,300.

The City’s required local match and overmatch funds were previously appropriated as follows:

Prior Appropriated Local Funds	
Transportation Capital Expansion Fee (TCEF) Funds	\$399,120
Transportation Fund	\$880
CCIP – Ped/Bike Grade Separated Crossing	\$2,900,000
Total Prior Appropriated Local Funds	\$3,300,000
Prior Appropriated Grant Funds	
Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Grant Funds	\$800,000
Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Grant	\$2,700,000
Total Prior Appropriation	\$7,200,000

Funds to be Appropriated with this Action	
Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Grant	\$3,239,300
Conservation Trust Funds <i>(transfer to Capital Projects Fund)</i>	\$1,600,000
Total Funds to be Appropriated per this Action	\$4,839,300

Based upon appropriations under this Ordinance combined with previously appropriated funds, as noted above, a total of \$12,039,300 is available to support completion of the Project.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

City staff presented the Project to the Bicycle Advisory Committee, the Commission on Disabilities, the Transportation Board, and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, all of whom support the Project.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Staff has developed a Public Engagement Plan for the Project. Staff has discussed and presented conceptual level drawings and renderings at several public outreach events including Kinard MS FC Moves Outreach Event, 2023 and 2024 Transportation Project Fairs and an upcoming Kruse ES Bike to School Day Open House. A Project website is regularly updated with Project information and upcoming milestones.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1. Ordinance for Consideration
- 2. CMAQ Grant Award Letter
- 3. Power Trail Vicinity Map
- 4. Power Trail Renderings