

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

Gunnar Hale, Project Manager
Dana Hornkohl, Capital Projects Manager

SUBJECT

First Reading of Ordinance No. 105, 2026, Making Supplemental Appropriations and Authorizing Transfers of Appropriations for the Vine and Timberline Rail Grade Separation Project and Related Art in Public Places.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to request a supplemental appropriation for the Vine and Timberline Rail Grade Separation project (the "Project"). The funding will be used to acquire an all-purpose easement on the southeast corner of the Timberline Road and Vine Drive intersection. The Project will elevate Timberline Road over Vine Drive and the adjacent BNSF Railway ("BNSF") rail yard, eliminating the existing at-grade crossing. The easement acquisition is needed to provide space for the overpass embankment. If approved, the item will: 1) appropriate \$113,098 in Transportation Capital Expansion Fee funds to the Project; 2) appropriate \$22 in Transportation Services Reserve funds to the Project; and 3) transfer \$1,120 (1% of new Project funding) in Capital Projects funds to the Art in Public Places program.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Ordinance on First Reading.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The existing intersection of Timberline Road and Vine Drive experiences congestion with safety and delay concerns due to the existing four-way stop control along with an at-grade rail crossing near the intersection. The Vine and Timberline Intersection Improvements project will improve the intersection with a traffic signal interconnected to a new rail crossing signal. That project is fully funded, and construction is currently underway. Construction on that intersection improvement project has been delayed by utility relocations being performed by the Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association and will be completed later this summer.

As northeast Fort Collins continues to develop, increasing traffic volumes at the intersection will result in the need for an overpass like the one constructed at Vine and Lemay completed in 2022. This grade separation over the railroad has been part of the City's Master Street Plan for several years. The Transportation Capital Projects Prioritization Study ("TCPPS") includes the Project as one of the top 15 projects in the study and includes development of a conceptual design (Attachment 4). TCPPS was discussed at a Council Work Session (August 22, 2023) and later adopted by Council on September 19, 2023 (Resolution 2023-086).

The East Ridge Second Filing and Waterfield Fourth Filing developments provided development contributions towards the Project that were previously appropriated by Council via Ordinance No. 122, 2023, and Ordinance No. 115, 2024. The City worked with a consultant to develop a Railroad Crossing Elimination program grant application that was submitted in 2024. The application requested funding to complete Project planning. The application was successful, and the City entered an intergovernmental agreement with the Federal Railroad Administration (“FRA”) in 2025, which was authorized by Resolution 2025-064, with funds appropriated via Ordinance No. 105, 2025. The planning effort is underway and is scheduled to be completed in August 2027.

The East Ridge Fifth Filing (Mosaic Development), in the southeast quadrant of the Vine Drive and Timberline Road intersection, was required to set aside the area envisioned for the Project. The homeowner’s association is now in possession of the common areas of the development and expressed the desire to transfer the property rights to the City for the Project. In discussions between the City’s Real Estate Services group and representatives of the homeowner’s association, it was determined that securing an all-purpose easement for the Project would be more direct and less costly than securing the property as right-of-way. The FRA confirmed that an easement would suffice under its regulations for the purpose of the Project. The supplemental appropriation, in conjunction with funds already appropriated to the Project, will allow the easement acquisition to move forward, securing property rights for a crucial portion of the Project.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

This item appropriates \$112,000 to support an easement acquisition for the Vine and Timberline Rail Grade Separation project.

The following is a summary of the current and proposed funding appropriations for the Project.

Previously Appropriated and/or Transferred Funds	
Development Contribution (DC) to Construction	\$ 331,827
Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Funds	\$ 765,616
Art in Public Places (APP) Program	\$ (3,318)
Total Prior Appropriation	\$ 1,094,125
Funds to be Appropriated and/or Transferred with this Action	
Transportation Capital Expansion Fee (TCEF)	\$ 113,098
Transportation Services Reserve Fund (TSRF)	\$ 22
Net Total Funds to be Appropriated per this Action	\$ 113,120
Proposed Transfer to Art in Public Places (APP) Program	\$ 1,120
Total Proposed Project Funds	\$ 1,206,125

The total fund amount projected for this Project is \$1,206,125 composed of funds appropriated with prior actions and with this action.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Council adopted TCPPTS (project is identified in the Transportation Capital Projects Prioritization Study) on September 19, 2023. The study was also brought to the Transportation Board on August 16, 2023, and the Bike Advisory Committee on August 28, 2023, and both bodies support the results of the study. The Project has been before Council on three previous occasions resulting in appropriations to the Project: Ordinance

No. 122, 2023 (budget cleanup appropriating a development contribution), Ordinance No. 115, 2024 (development contribution), and Resolution 2025-064 and Ordinance No. 105, 2025 (RCE grant and match appropriation).

PUBLIC OUTREACH

A public engagement plan was established as part of the development of the TCPPS work plan. This effort included a bilingual webpage on ourcity.fcgov.com, social media platforms, press releases, newsletters published by the City and various organizations, email distribution in coordination with Larimer County Department of Health and Environment, and an in-person open house table for the West Elizabeth Corridor Design Project in July 2021.

A virtual open house for TCPPS was held from October 14-31, 2021, to provide a progress update, display analysis findings, garner feedback, and encourage viewers to take a public survey if they had not already done so. The public survey itself was accessed by 472 visitors, contributed to by 166 unique people, and received 1,020 pins/comments.

An individual public outreach plan has been developed by the Project team for the planning effort in conjunction with the Communications and Public Involvement Office. A public engagement event is being scheduled for November 2026.

ATTACHMENTS / LINKS

1. Ordinance No. 122, 2023 (copy)
2. Ordinance No. 115, 2024 (copy)
3. Ordinance No. 105, 2025 (copy)
4. Vine and Timberline Rail Grade Separation – Conceptual Design
5. Ordinance No. 105, 2026