

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

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SUBJECT

Items Relating to the Vine/Timberline Rail Grade Separation Planning Project.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. Resolution 2025-064 Authorizing the Execution of an Intergovernmental Grant Agreement Between the City of Fort Collins and the Federal Railroad Administration for the Vine/Timberline Rail Grade Separation Planning Project.

B. First Reading of Ordinance No. 105, 2025, Making a Supplemental Appropriation of Railroad Crossing Elimination Program Grant Funds for the Vine/Timberline Rail Grade Separation Planning Project.

The purpose of this item is to enable the City to receive and expend Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Program funds through the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for the Vine/Timberline Rail Grade Separation Planning project (Project). The funds will be used to conduct planning for the capital project that intends to grade separate Timberline Road over Vine Drive and the BNSF railroad, eliminating the at-grade crossing of the railroad. The grant funding is not eligible for contributions to the Art in Public Places (APP) program. Previously appropriated funding from development contributions to construction will provide the City's cost share obligation under the federal grant, as well as providing additional funds needed for Project completion. The development contributions are subject to APP program transfers that are complete. If approved, the item will: 1) authorize the Mayor to execute an intergovernmental grant agreement for the Project with the FRA and delegate authority to Engineering to accept the grant through the online acceptance system and 2) appropriate \$765,616 in RCE Program grant funds to the Project.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend adoption of the Resolution and 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 4-way stop control along with an at-grade rail crossing near the intersection. The Vine and Timberline Intersection Improvements project, which is already underway, 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 Vine and Timberline intersection will result in the need for an overpass like the one constructed at Vine and Lemay completed in 2022. This grade separation at Vine and Timberline 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 1**). TCPPS was discussed at the August 22, 2023, City Council Work Session and later adopted by City 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 have been previously appropriated by City Council. The City worked with a consultant to develop an RCE Program grant application that was submitted in 2024. The application requested funding to complete Project planning. The application was successful, and the City recently received notification that the FRA is ready to move forward with the intergovernmental grant agreement (**Attached as Exhibit A to the Resolution**). This request seeks authorization to accept and execute the agreement and appropriate the grant funding.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

This item appropriates \$765,616 in costs to support the Vine/Timberline Rail Grade Separation Planning project.

An additional \$331,827 in funds needed for the project has been appropriated in the Capital Projects Fund. The RCE local match of \$191,404 required for the RCE grant will come from this previously appropriated funding. The remaining local funds (\$140,423) will be available as an overmatch for future grant opportunities and to help fund final design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction of the Project.

The RCE grant is a reimbursable grant, meaning Capital Projects Fund expenses will be reimbursed up to \$765,616.

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

Prior Appropriated Funds	
Development Contributions to Construction	\$331,827
Funds to be Appropriated per this Action	
Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Funds	\$765,616
Total Funds to be Appropriated per this Action	\$765,616
Proposed Transfer to Art in Public Places	\$0
Total Proposed Project Funds	\$1,097,443

The total fund amount projected for this Project is \$1,097,443 composed of funds appropriated with prior actions and with this action.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Council adopted TCPPS (project is identified in the 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.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

A public engagement plan was established as part of the development of the TCPSP 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 TCPSP was held from October 14-31, 2021, to provide a project 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 will be developed for the Project with the Communications and Public Involvement Office as part of the project planning effort.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Vine/Timberline Rail Grade Separation – Conceptual Design
2. Resolution 2025-064
3. Ordinance No. 105, 2025