

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

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

SUBJECT

Items Relating to the Power Trail and Harmony Grade Separated Crossing Project.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. Resolution 2024-028 Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City of Fort Collins, Colorado, and the Colorado Department of Transportation for the Power Trail and Harmony Grade Separated Crossing Project.

B. First Reading of Ordinance No. 041, 2024, Making Supplemental Appropriations in the Capital Projects Fund of Colorado Department of Transportation Alternative Program Grant Funds and the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Grant Funds, for the Power Trail and Harmony Grade Separated Crossing Project.

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:

- Authorize the Mayor to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for the Project with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT);
- Appropriate \$800,000 of unanticipated Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) grant funds for the Project; and
- Appropriate \$2,700,000 of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant funds for the Project.

Previously appropriated funds will be used for local match requirements.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Resolution and 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 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, 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 5). These funds are required to complete construction of the Project planned for 2025.

As demonstrated in the CMAQ Grant Award Letter (Attachment 5), an additional \$3,239,300 in CMAQ funds are programmed for FY2026. These CMAQ funds will be requested for appropriation along with additional City funds required to complete the project as part of the City's 2025-2026 Budget.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

This item appropriates \$3.5 million in costs to support the Power Trail and Harmony Grade Separated Crossing Project from:

- \$2.7 million in unanticipated CMAQ funds (17.21% local match to be met with previously appropriated CCIP funds)
- \$800,000 in unanticipated TAP funds (20% local match to be met with previously appropriated CCIP funds)

Both the CMAQ and TAP funds apply on a reimbursement basis, meaning Capital Project Funds expenses will be reimbursed up to \$3.5 million.

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

Prior Appropriated Funds	
Transportation Capital Expansion Fee (TCEF) Funds	\$399,120
Transportation Fund	\$880
CCIP – Ped/Bike Grade Separated Crossing	\$2,900,000
Total Prior Appropriation	\$3,700,000
Funds to be Appropriated with this Action	
Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Grant Funds	\$800,000
Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Grant	\$2,700,000
Total Funds to be Appropriated per this Action	\$3,500,000

Based upon appropriations under this Ordinance combined with previously appropriated funds, as noted above, a total of \$7,200,000 is available to support completion of the Project.

As demonstrated in the CMAQ Grant Award Letter (Attachment 5), an additional \$3,239,300 in CMAQ funds are programmed for FY2026. These CMAQ funds will be requested for appropriation along with additional City funds required to complete the Project as part of the City’s 2025-2026 Budget.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Bicycle Advisory Committee
 Commission on Disabilities
 Transportation Board
 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

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. Resolution for Consideration
2. Exhibit A to Resolution
3. Ordinance for Consideration
4. TAP Grant Award Letter
5. CMAQ Grant Award Letter
6. Power Trail and Harmony Project – Vicinity Map
7. Power Trail and Harmony Project – Renderings