

# AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



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## STAFF

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## SUBJECT

**Items Relating to the Siphon Overpass Project.**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. Resolution 2023-051 Authorizing the Execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City of Fort Collins and the Colorado Department of Transportation for the Siphon Overpass Project.

B. First Reading of Ordinance No. 088, 2023, Making Supplemental Appropriations of Unanticipated Revenue from the Siphon Overpass Project.

The purpose of this item is to enable the City to receive and expend Multimodal Options Fund (MMOF) funds and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funds from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and to appropriate those funds for the project. This item will authorize the Mayor to execute the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for the Siphon Overpass Project with CDOT and will appropriate an additional \$750,000 in the Capital Projects Fund for the Project. These funds will be used to design and construct a trail overpass spanning the existing railroad tracks near the southwest corner of the Willow Springs neighborhood.

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## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Resolution and Ordinance on First Reading.

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## BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The Power Trail is a frequently used north/south multi-use recreational and commuter connection. The trail connects the Spring Creek Trail at its northern end point and the Fossil Creek Trail at its southern end. The Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) tracks parallel the Power Trail. Trail users south of Harmony Road and east of the tracks wishing to access the Power Trail must use designated crossings at Harmony Road or at Trilby Road. Additional crossings do not exist between the two roadway crossings. There is evidence of trail users crossing the railroad tracks at unauthorized locations between Harmony Road and Trilby Road. The need for a grade separated crossing between Harmony and Trilby becomes amplified as development continues around this area.

The Siphon Overpass Project will design, acquire right-of-way, and construct a trail overpass spanning the UPRR tracks near the southeast corner of the Willow Springs neighborhood. This will provide a safe and

designated connection to the Power Trail for users south of Harmony Road and east of the UPRR tracks. The design will be context sensitive to the existing natural environment; concurrently performing environmental investigations and reviews associated with the use of federal funds. The project will also be designed to complement anticipated trail improvements along Mail Creek and at Timberline Road. Design is currently underway, and construction is anticipated to begin in 2023. A vicinity map and a rendering of the pedestrian overpass are included in the attachments.

The City was awarded \$554,569 in MMOF and \$195,431 in CRP Funds by the North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization as this project not only improves multimodal connectivity, but also provides a safe route to nearby neighborhood schools. The funds are administered by CDOT. The City is required to provide local matching funds equaling \$595,194. Funds previously appropriated to this Project will be used as the local match.

Per Chapter 23 of the City Code, Article XII (addressing Art in Public Places), Section 23-304, all appropriations for construction projects estimated to cost over \$250,000 shall include an amount equal to one percent of the estimated cost for works of art. The previously appropriated funds for local match have already satisfied the required contribution to public art. As defined in the IGA, the MMOF and CRP funds are not eligible for use toward public art.

## CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

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The following is a summary of the project funding:

<b>Prior Project Appropriations</b>	
From Community Capital Improvement Program (CCIP) Fund (Transferred to Capital Projects Fund via 2020-2021 BFO Offer 1.11)	\$1,700,000
From MMOF Grant (Ordinance No 118, 2021)	\$1,855,050
Less: \$5,050 Transfer to Art in Public Places (Ordinance No 118, 2021)	
CCIP - Ped/Bike Grade Separated Crossing (BFO Offer 21.16, 2022)	\$500,000
Less: \$5,000 Transfer to Art in Public Places (BFO offer 21.16, 2022)	
2023-2024 BFO offer 25.19	\$450,000
Less: \$4,500 Transfer to Art in Public Places (2023-2024 BFO offer 25.19)	
<b>Total Prior Appropriated Project Funds</b>	<b>\$4,505,050</b>
<b>Project Funds to be Appropriated with this Action</b>	
Multimodal Options Funds (MMOF)	\$554,569
Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)	\$195,431
<b>Total Project Funds to be Appropriated with this Action</b>	<b>\$750,000</b>
Local Match of \$595,194 is from Prior Project Appropriated Funds	
<b>Total Project Funds</b>	<b>\$5,255,050</b>

## **BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

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City staff presented this project to the Council Finance Committee on August 11, 2021 (a copy of these minutes is included in the attachments). The project has also been presented to various boards as part of the broader Bicycle/Pedestrian Grade Separated Prioritization Study.

## **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

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City staff is currently developing an outreach plan intended to gather stakeholder input as the design progresses. Staff has also been in contact with adjacent development representatives. An open house is planned for this summer, together with two other adjacent projects.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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1. Resolution for Consideration
2. Exhibit A to Resolution
3. Ordinance for Consideration
4. Vicinity Map
5. Overpass Bridge Rendering
6. Council Finance Committee Minutes, August 11, 2021