



STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: January 10, 2024

PRESENTER: John Jansons, City Manager

SUBJECT: Resolution in Support of Fresno Council of Government's application to the California Department of Transportation FY 2024-25 Sustainable Communities Competitive Grant Program for the Fresno County Regional Rail Feasibility Study and authorize Mayor to send letter of support

RECOMMENDATION: Council by motion adopt resolution in support of Fresno Council of Governments' (FCOG) and the Fresno County Rural Transit Agency's (FCRTA) application to the California Department of Transportation's (CALTRANS) FY 2024-25 Sustainable Communities Competitive Grant Program for the Fresno County Regional Rail Feasibility Study and authorize Mayor to send letter of support representing the City of Kerman.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of the proposed resolution is for Council to support the application by Fresno COG and FCRTA, to CAL TRANS for Fiscal Year 2024-25 Sustainable Communities Competitive Grant Program for the Fresno County Regional Rail Feasibility Study (Study).

The proposed study will analyze the feasibility of a zero-emission regional rail network in Fresno County that aims to better connect the County's disadvantaged and underserved rural incorporated and unincorporated communities to the future downtown Fresno High-Speed Rail Station.

With the subject rail corridor passing through Kerman, the City is a key stakeholder with a significant vested interest in the study and any future decision regarding use of the rail line.

The Study aligns with the Caltrans Sustainable Communities grant program criteria by studying a zero-emission regional rail network that could result in increased public transit ridership throughout Fresno County, achieve the State's vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets, and benefit a federally designated Area of Persistent Poverty, Historically Disadvantaged Community, and Opportunity Zone, as well as a state designated Disadvantaged Community, Economically Distressed Area, and Low-Income Community. The Study would primarily focus on studying a zero-emission regional rail network on the existing, and currently underutilized, San Joaquin Valley Railroad corridor that runs east-west within Fresno County (Attachment 'B').

Fresno COG and FCRTA are requesting \$300,000 in grant funding for the Fresno County Regional Rail Feasibility Study. Fresno COG and FCRTA would also contribute a combined \$50,000 in local matching funds towards the Study.

If adopted, the Resolution and Letter of support will be delivered to FCOG for inclusion in their grant application package.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Resolution w/Exhibit A (Letter of Support)
- B. Proposed Rail Study Supporting Documents

RESOLUTION NO. 24 ____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KERMAN SUPPORTING APPLICATION BY FRESNO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS AND THE FRESNO COUNTY RURAL TRANSIT AGENCY TO THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE FRESNO COUNTY REGIONAL RAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY AND AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO SEND LETTER OF SUPPORT REPRESENTING THE CITY OF KERMAN.

WHEREAS, the City of Kerman is represented by both the Fresno Council of Governments and the Fresno County Rural Transit Agency on matters of transportation improvements, goods movement, infrastructure investment, regional planning and public transportation; and

WHEREAS, the City is a key stakeholder with a significant vested interest in the east-west rail line under discussion; and

WHEREAS, the City supports the examination of dual use of freight and passenger linkages to maximize and optimize existing rail infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to express its collective support for the proposed study; and

WHEREAS, to that end has authorized the Mayor to issue a letter of support on behalf of the Kerman City Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

- Section 1. The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein by reference.
- Section 2. The City Council supports the proposed study.
- Section 3. The City Council authorizes a letter of support be provided to FCOG Exhibit A.
- Section 4. Time is of the essence.
- Section 5. This Resolution is effective upon adoption.

The foregoing resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Kerman held on the 10th day of January 2024 and passed at said meeting by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

The foregoing resolution is hereby approved.

Maria Pacheco
Mayor

ATTEST:

Josie Camacho
Interim City Clerk