



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING**

#24-0456

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Susan Grant, Acting City Manager

DATE: October 1, 2024

TITLE: Resolution Approving the Execution and Acceptance of the Federal Railroad Administration Grant for the Railroad Crossing Elimination Program, in the Amount of \$280,000 – **(Commission Districts 2 and 4)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission adopt a Resolution to accept the Railroad Crossing Elimination Program grant in the amount of \$280,000 from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for funding of a Railroad Crossing Safety and Congestion Analysis Study and authorize the City Manager to execute the grant agreement, in substantially the form attached, on behalf of the City of Fort Lauderdale.

Background

In October 2022, the City of Fort Lauderdale submitted a proposal to the FRA to request grant funding through the Railroad Crossing Elimination Program (RCEP) for a study estimated to cost \$350,000. The grant application requested \$280,000 with a City match of \$70,000 (20% of the total project cost). There were 209 applicants of which 63 were selected for an award. On August 24, 2023, the City was notified that the application was accepted and awarded \$280,000.

The proposed agreement defines the scope of the project and the associated deliverables. City staff anticipate utilizing the grant funding to procure a sensor-based technology that will provide data associated with railway impacts at fifteen crossings along the existing Florida East Coast Railway corridor. The goal of the project is to provide the City with an in-depth analysis of vehicle interactions with the crossings and driver delays. This data will be used to determine methods, such as grade separation, to improve safety and reduce traffic congestion.

The proposed agreement provides an 18-month period for the City to complete the study, which includes any time associated with procurement processes to onboard a consultant. The grant funding is provided on a reimbursement basis and is limited to the grant agreement terms, scope, and specific deliverables.

The City Manager or the City Manager's designee is required to execute the grant through

the FRA portal, Grant Solutions. The user account request form is included as Exhibit 3. Staff will also be required to submit all reports and grant reimbursements through the Grant Solutions portal.

Resource Impact

This action will result in a positive fiscal impact to the City in the amount of \$280,000, which will be appropriated to the account below contingent upon the approval of the October 1, 2024, Consolidated Budget Amendment, CAM 24-0840.

Funds available as of October 1, 2024					
ACCOUNT NUMBER	COST CENTER NAME	CHARACTER CODE/ ACCOUNT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Character)	AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)	AMOUNT
10-129-9300-331-490-24GUSD OFRA	US FDOT GRANT FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMIN	INTERGOV REVENUE / FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	\$0	\$0	\$280,000
10-001-000-00-90-9901	GENERAL FUND	OTHER USES/ ANTICIPATED YEAR END BALANCE	N/A	N/A	\$70,000
TOTAL AMOUNT →					\$350,000

Use:

ACCOUNT NUMBER	COST CENTER NAME	CHARACTER CODE/ ACCOUNT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Character)	AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)	AMOUNT
10-129-9300-544-60-6534-24GUSD OFRA	US FDOT GRANT FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMIN	CAPITAL OUTLAY / CONSULTANT ENGINEERING FEES	\$0	\$0	\$280,000
10-331-9100-512-60-6534-24GUSD OFRAA	US FDOT GRANT FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMIN-MATCH	CAPITAL OUTLAY / CONSULTANT ENGINEERING FEES	\$0	\$0	\$70,000
TOTAL AMOUNT →					\$350,000

Strategic Connections

This item is a *2024 Commission Priority*, advancing the Transportation and Infrastructure initiatives.

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2029 Strategic Plan*, specifically advancing:

- The Infrastructure and Resilience Focus Area
- Goal 4: Facilitate an efficient, multimodal transportation network.

This item supports the *Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040 Comprehensive Plan* specifically advancing:

- The Infrastructure Focus Area
- The Transportation & Mobility Element
- Goal 3: Ensure a cohesive transportation network among local, regional, and state regulatory institutions.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We Are Connected*.

Related CAM

CAM 24-0840

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Grant Agreement

Exhibit 2 – Grant Solutions Form

Exhibit 3 – Resolution

Prepared by: Gail Jagessar, Transportation and Mobility, Grants and Special Project Coordinator

Acting Department Director: Milos Majstorovic, MSCE, PE, Transportation and Mobility