



**MEETING OF JANUARY 2, 2024**

**TO:** Mayor Jordan and City Council

**THRU:** Chris Brown, Public Works Director  
Susan Norton, Chief of Staff

**FROM:** Matt Casey, Engineering Design Manager

**DATE:**

**SUBJECT: A Resolution approving a Railroad Grant Administration Agreement**

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of a resolution approving an agreement between the City of Fayetteville, the City of Springdale and the Arkansas and Missouri Railroad for the administration of the Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Cities of Fayetteville and Springdale, in collaboration with Arkansas & Missouri Railroad, were awarded a 2022 Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant in the amount of \$576,000 to conduct planning activities to scope improvement projects at various at-grade crossings to improve mobility and enhance safety for the area. The application requested funding for a grant to plan improvements at various crossings between the University Avenue crossing in Fayetteville to the Apple Blossom Avenue crossing in Springdale.

The pursuit of funds for railroad crossing safety stemmed from the addition of two new crossings near the Fulbright Expressway and associated contractual obligations of the City to close and/or improve the safety of existing crossings.

The following crossings were covered in the application:

Fayetteville

- University Avenue - possible closure and replacement with bike/ped grade separation (closure of this location is required as part of the new crossing at Shiloh Street).
- Dickson Street - possible improvements to allow quiet zone
- Frisco Avenue - safety and geometric improvements
- Jocelyn Lane - possible closure (closure of this location is required as part of the new crossing at Futrall Drive)

Springdale

- Shady Grove Road - possible safety and drainage improvements)
- Sunset Avenue - possible safety improvements and realignment of adjacent intersections
- Randall Wobbe Drive - possible replacement with grade separation
- Apple Blossom Drive - possible safety improvements

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Each location will be evaluated for criteria such as safety, environmental impact, economic impact and multimodal impact.

**DISCUSSION:**

After the notification of award of this grant, staff from the City of Fayetteville, City of Springdale and the Railroad met with the Federal Railroad Administration and identified the steps necessary to move towards obligation of the funds. The first step is for the three parties to enter into an agreement for the administration of this grant. FRA assisted in the drafting of the agreement. The agreement has been signed by the Railroad and is in the process for approval by the Springdale City Council. Once this agreement has been signed and submitted to the FRA, then the agreement for the grant award will be prepared by FRA and sent to the grant recipients to be executed.

**BUDGET/STAFF IMPACT:**

There is no budget impact associated with this agreement.

**ATTACHMENTS:** SRF (#3), 2023-1511 RR Grant Admin Agmt (#4)

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