



# City of Fayetteville, Arkansas

113 West Mountain Street  
Fayetteville, AR 72701  
(479) 575-8323

## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 2024-118

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**A Resolution for approval of a Federal Railroad Administration Grant Agreement, approval of a budget adjustment and to recognize the revenue from the grant.**

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE ACCEPTANCE OF A FEDERAL RAILROAD CROSSING ELIMINATION GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$576,000.00, AND TO APPROVE A BUDGET ADJUSTMENT

**WHEREAS**, in 2022, the Cities of Fayetteville and Springdale, in collaboration with Arkansas & Missouri Railroad, were awarded a Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant in the amount of \$576,000.00 to conduct planning activities to scope improvement projects at various at-grade crossings to improve mobility and enhance safety for the area; and

**WHEREAS**, 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; and

**WHEREAS**, staff from the City of Fayetteville, City of Springdale and the Railroad have worked with the Federal Railroad Administration to develop a final grant agreement.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS:**

Section 1: That the City Council of the City of Fayetteville, Arkansas hereby authorizes the acceptance of a Federal Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant in the amount of \$576,000.00 and authorizes Mayor Jordan to execute the grant agreement and any other documents necessary to receive the funds.

Section 2: That the City Council of the City of Fayetteville, Arkansas hereby approves a budget adjustment, a copy of which is attached to this Resolution.



**MEETING OF JUNE 4, 2024**

**TO:** Mayor Jordan and City Council

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

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

**SUBJECT:** **A Resolution for approval of a Federal Railroad Administration Grant Agreement, approval of a budget adjustment and to recognize the revenue from the grant.**

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends a resolution for approval of an agreement between the City of Fayetteville and the Federal Railroad Administration for acceptance of the award of the Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant, approval of a budget adjustment and to recognize the revenue from the grant in the amount of \$576,000.

**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.

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 (FRA) and identified the steps necessary to move towards obligation of the funds. The first step was for the three parties to enter into an agreement for the administration of this grant. This agreement was approved at the January 2, 2024 City Council Meeting.

**DISCUSSION:**

Since the approval of the agreement for the grant administration was approved in January, staff have been working with FRA personnel in the development of the final grant agreement. The approval of this agreement is the final step in the process to obligate the grant funding. Once the funds have been obligated by FRA, the City will be able to select a consultant to perform the crossing elimination study. A separate contract for this study will be presented to the City Council at a later date along with an agreement to split the local matching funds (\$144,000) with the City of Springdale. The City of Fayetteville's share will be up to \$62,400.00. The City of Springdale's share will be up to \$81,600.00. Exact amounts are contingent upon the agreement for professional services for the study.

**BUDGET/STAFF IMPACT:**

The local matching funds (\$144,000) will be paid for from 2022 Transportation Bond Fund as well as funds that will be received from the City of Springdale.

**ATTACHMENTS:** SRF (#3), BA (#4), 2024-118 FRA Grant Agreement (#5)

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