



Agenda Report

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson
Way
Viera, FL 32940

Consent

F.11.

5/21/2024

Subject:

Approval Re: Permission for the Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization to Apply to the Rail Crossing Elimination Grant on behalf of Brevard County - Countywide

Fiscal Impact:

To be determined once the number of crossings is determined. The match will be 20% for those crossings in Brevard County's jurisdiction with a not to exceed (NTE) of \$1.1M. The match will be budgeted in FY25 and paid for by fuel tax revenues.

Dept/Office:

Public Works Department/Finance and Contracts Administration

Requested Action:

It is requested the Board of County Commissioners 1) grant approval for the Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) to apply for the Rail Crossing Elimination Grant (or any subsequent opportunities) on behalf of Brevard County; 2) authorize the Chair to sign on behalf of the Board the attached letter of support for the project; 3) authorize the County Manager to execute any necessary Supplemental Agreements (amendments), documents, and/or contracts contingent upon approval by the County Attorney's Office; and 4) authorize the County Manager to approve any necessary Budget Change Requests associated with this request.

Summary Explanation and Background:

The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is anticipated to be posted for the Rail Crossing Elimination Grant administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation/Federal Railroad Administration in late May 2024. The closing date for applications is typically sixty days from the NOFO. The grant provides funding for highway-rail or pathway-rail grade crossing improvement projects that focus on improving the safety and mobility of people and goods.

Staff is currently working with the TPO and its consultant to assess all Brevard County crossings for safety deficiencies and to finalize concept-level details for the subsequent grant submission. South of SR 528 where Brightline operates high-speed rail, Michigan Ave, Dixon Blvd, and Holly St were identified as needing improvements and will be included in the grant submission for those crossings maintained by Brevard County. The overall TPO grant submission is anticipated to also include crossings within the City of Melbourne and the City of Cocoa, each jurisdiction having to commit to its anticipated 20% match and subsequent maintenance costs.

As part of the County's overall NTE of \$1.1M, Staff is also looking to make various improvements North of SR 528. However, to ensure the grant submission is as competitive as possible, these improvements will not be

submitted as part of the actual grant. Select safety improvements are instead being considered for Fay Blvd, a 4-lane arterial road crossing, and will be further developed by one of the County's consultants in consultation with FEC. Additional 2-lane local road crossings are also being considered where potential low-cost safety improvements can be implemented. The specifics will be brought back to the Board either through additional details added to the Department's subsequent Capital Improvement Program submission or in a subsequent agenda as needed.

In accordance with Administrative Order 75 - Grant Management, Board approval is needed to apply for the Rail Crossing Elimination Grant as a match is required.

Clerk to the Board Instructions:

Please return a copy of the signed Letter of Support to the Public Works Department.



Kimberly Powell, Clerk to the Board, 400 South Street • P.O. Box 999, Titusville, Florida 32781-0999

Telephone: (321) 637-2001
Fax: (321) 264-6972
Kimberly.Powell@brevardclerk.us

May 22, 2024

MEMORANDUM

TO: Marc Bernath, Public Works Director

RE: Item F.11., Approval of Permission for the Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) to Apply to the Rail Crossing Elimination Grant on Behalf of Brevard County

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on May 21, 2024, granted approval for the Space Coast TPO to apply for the Rail Crossing Elimination Grant (or any subsequent opportunities) on behalf of Brevard County; authorized the Chair to sign, on behalf of the Board, a letter of support for the Project; authorized the County Manager to execute any necessary Supplemental Agreements (amendments), documents, and/or contracts contingent upon approval by the County Attorney's Office; and authorized the County Manager to approve any necessary Budget Change Requests associated with this request. Enclosed is a copy of the signed letter.

Your continued cooperation is always appreciated.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RACHEL M. SADOFF, CLERK

Kimberly Powell
Kimberly Powell, Clerk to the Board

/sm

Encl. (1)

cc: County Attorney
Finance
Budget



BREVARD COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Rita Pritchett
District 1

Tom Goodson
District 2

John Tobia
District 3

Rob Feltner
District 4

Jason Steele, Chair
District 5

May 21, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Brevard County Sealed Corridor Project - Rail Crossing Elimination Program Discretionary Grant

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

As the Chair representing the Brevard Board of County Commissioners, I write to express my strong support for the Brevard County Sealed Corridor ("Project") that the Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization is pursuing through the Railroad Crossing Elimination Program.

The Brevard County Sealed Corridor Project will improve safety by installing enhancements at 9 grade crossings along the Florida East Coast Railway (FECR), which operates freight rail, and Brightline Trains Florida, LLC (Brightline), which provides intercity passenger rail service.

The primary benefits of this Project are reduced loss of life and railway collisions, trespassing, and other safety-related violations. Costly damage to public and private property due to road/rail accidents will decrease, along with traffic backups and grade crossing closures resulting from a crash.

Under the current system under operation, FECR and Brightline meet or exceed FRA's railroad safety requirements and the federal laws and regulations governing the safety of rail operations nationwide. Brightline has made significant safety infrastructure investments and has implemented parallel safety campaigns. The investment to be made with the proceeds of this grant will supplement all the current safety initiatives and create an even more meaningful impact.

I appreciate your consideration and respectfully request you consider this important project for funding.
Sincerely,

Respectfully,

Jason Steele, Chair
Brevard County Board of County Commissioners