



COMMISSIONERS COURT
COMMUNICATION

REFERENCE NUMBER _____

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DATE: 09/17/2024

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION TO SUBMIT FISCAL YEAR 2024 RAIL CROSSING ELIMINATION PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION FOR THE BONDS RANCH ROAD WEST GRADE SEPARATION

***** CONSENT AGENDA *****

COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION REQUESTED

It is requested that the Commissioners Court consider the submission FY 2024 Rail Crossing Elimination Program Grant Application to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for the Bonds Ranch Road West Grade Separation.

BACKGROUND

Tarrant County is seeking funding for a Railroad Crossing Elimination Program (RCEP) discretionary grant program for two (2) grade separations on Bonds Ranch Road in the City of Fort Worth, Texas and within Tarrant County, Texas. The first is located on the BNSF Wichita Falls Subdivision and the second one is located on the Union Pacific Duncan Subdivision.

The two (2) grade separations at this location will support the program's goals by eliminating blocked crossings and at-grade crossing incidents, as well as reducing congestion, minimizing emissions, and increasing railroad efficiency and mobility. Most importantly, this project will increase safety for pedestrians and motor vehicles passing through the area and ensure an efficient rail movement for both the BNSF and the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR).

This project involves two (2) grade separations of the at-grade crossings on Bond Ranch Road, which is part of a corridor approach to improving the entire road corridor. Bonds Ranch Road is currently configured with two (2) lanes; however, the road will be built to four (4) lanes through the entire length of the road as part of an effort to improve capacity throughout the corridor and handle additional traffic coming to the area. The corridor is broken into several segments. The grade separation project is Segment 2 of the greater Bonds Ranch Road Corridor Improvements project. The overall road project extends from the funded Bonds Ranch Road grade separation at the BNSF Fort Worth Subdivision in the east to FM 1220 in the west.

To meet these goals, Tarrant County is requesting \$38,000,000.00 in Rail Crossing Elimination Program funding toward the total project cost of \$106,000,000.00.

SUBMITTED BY:	Budget and Risk Mgmt	PREPARED BY: APPROVED BY:	Rand Otten Robert D. Cone
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FISCAL IMPACT

The grant request is for \$38,000,000.00. The federal share of total costs for RCE Program projects funded under the notice of funding opportunity may not exceed 80 percent. The amount of proposed non-federal match is \$48,000,000 from the following sources: TxDOT, BNSF, North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), UPRR, Tarrant County, and the City of Fort Worth.