



TO: Elizabeth Pauli
FROM: Kyle Kellem, Tacoma Rail Roadmaster
Dale W. King, Tacoma Rail Superintendent
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution, Grade Crossing Protective Fund Grant Authorization
DATE: March 29, 2022

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

Tacoma Rail requests City Council authorization to accept grant funds awarded by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) to install new fencing near Mountain Division railroad tracks in the amount of \$40,000.

BACKGROUND:

This Department's Recommendation is Based On:

The WUTC Grade Crossing Protective Fund (GCPF) has awarded grant funding to Tacoma Rail Mountain Division for the purpose of a fence installation to deter trespassers on the City's railroad right-of-way between East 64th Street and East 68th Street.

On August 2, 2021, the WUTC announced a Notice of Funds Available for Rail Safety Projects from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund, and called on railroads to submit projects for consideration.

On November 10, 2021, Tacoma Rail filed an application with the Commission requesting \$40,000 from the GCPF to partially fund a project to install 530 lineal feet of fencing along its Mountain Division line between railroad mile post 5.2, East 64th Street, and mile post 5.3, East 68th Street in Tacoma.

This grant award for fencing installation will help deter trespassers from entering the RR ROW and hinder them from walking or driving down the tracks at this location. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$61,000, with Tacoma Rail Mountain Division FUND-4120 contributing the additional \$21,000 needed to complete the installation.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

Along with the City of Tacoma generally, Tacoma Rail has experienced ongoing issues with homeless encampments on the adjacent private property with the majority of the occupants accessing the encampment area via the RR ROW. For the safety of area residents and railroad employees in and around this area, it is prudent to install fencing.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility: (Mandatory)

Please state how this legislation will reduce racial and other inequities, disparities, or discrimination to under-represented communities. Please state what positive impacts on equity, equality, diversity or inclusion, if any, would result from enacting this legislation.



The installation of fencing near railroad tracks in this area would assist in keeping the nearby community safer by deterring trespassers and helping to prevent potential trespasser injuries within the railroad right-of-way.

Identify which Tacoma 2025 strategic goals your legislation most relates to, and then identify the [Equity Index Score](#) for those goals in the geography your proposal will affect. Select the indicator(s) this legislation is most related to, then briefly explain how this legislation will impact the selected indicator(s) and/or improve the Equity Index Score. *Use the dropdowns below and refer to guide for more information.*

Livability: Equity Index Score: Select Index Score.
Increase positive public perception of safety and overall quality of life.

Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s).
The project to install a fence would assist in keeping the neighborhood community safe by preventing trespassers from entering an active rail line.

ALTERNATIVES:

Presumably, your recommendation is not the only potential course of action; please discuss other alternatives or actions that City Council or staff could take. Please use table below.

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. Reject the GCPF fund Grant and abandon this project.	None associated with this alternative.	Missed opportunity to enhance safety.
2.		

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

Please include what performance measures and/or benchmarks you have identified that indicate success. Explain how you will follow up with staff and/or Council to report success or changes.

Success would be measured by a marked decrease in the amount of trash/debris within the RR right-of-way, reduced incidents of complaints from neighborhood residents and reduced City of Tacoma 311 and Tacoma Police Department reports.

STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

Tacoma Rail recommends that City Council authorizes execution of the GCPF Grant Agreement to assist with financing a safety improvement project planned for this biennial budget cycle.



FISCAL IMPACT:

Please provide a short summary of the fiscal impacts associated with the grant, agreement, policy action, or other action.

Fund Number & Name	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	Cost Element	Total Amount
1. FUND 4120 - TRMW	Cost Center 636000		\$40,000.00
2. FUND 4120 - TRMW	Cost Center 636000		\$21,000.00
TOTAL			\$61,000.00

What Funding is being used to support the expense?

THE MATCHING FUNDS REQUIREMENT ARE AVAILABLE IN MOUNTAIN DIVISION FUND-4120.

Are the expenditures and revenues planned and budgeted in this biennium's current budget?

YES

Click or tap here to enter text.

Are there financial costs or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?

YES

Probable delay in project completion, if not approved.

Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?

No

Will the legislation change the City's FTE/personnel counts?

No

Please enter Explanation.

ATTACHMENTS:

N/A