



City of Tacoma


Resolution No.:

Meeting Date: February 13, 2024

**Contract and Award Letter  
Purchase Resolution —Exhibit "A"**

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**TO:** Board of Contracts and Awards

**FROM:** Ramiro A. Chavez, P.E. PgMP, Director/City Engineer, Public Works   
Veronicah Munyao, Project Manager, Public Works

**COPY:** City Council, City Manager, City Clerk, EIC Coordinator, LEAP Coordinator, and Carly Fowler, Senior Buyer, Finance/Purchasing

**SUBJECT:** BNSF Railroad Grade Crossing Construction and Maintenance Agreements for USDOT Crossing No. 085742D (6th Avenue & Titlow Beach) and USDOT Crossing No. 085743K (South 19th Street & Narrows Marina)  
Request for Bids Specification No. PW20-0228F - February 13, 2024 City Council

**DATE:** January 11, 2024

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**RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY:**

The Public Works Department requests approval to increase two existing contracts with BNSF Railway Company (BNSF), Seattle, Washington, by \$1,013,093.82, plus applicable taxes, budgeted from the 1060 Transportation Capital Fund, to complete the design, purchase, and installation of railroad infrastructure equipment, flagging, and other associated tasks. This is an increase to the USDOT Crossing No. 085742D contract (6th Avenue & Titlow Beach) of \$325,675.00 and an increase to the USDOT Crossing No. 085743K contract (South 19th Street & Narrows Marina) of \$687,418.82, for a cumulative total of \$2,714,170.82, plus applicable taxes.

**STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:**

- Strengthen and support a safe city with healthy residents.
- Foster a vibrant and diverse economy with good jobs for all Tacoma residents.
- Encourage thriving residents with abundant opportunities for life-long learning.
- Assure outstanding stewardship of the natural and built environment.

The planned railroad improvements will enhance vehicle and pedestrian travel and public safety, ensuring access to residences, businesses, and park facilities, without impacting railroad operations/commerce and public transportation.

**BACKGROUND:**

In 2017, the City began studying rail crossings across the City that involved multiple railroad tracks in an effort to review opportunities to enhance pedestrian and traffic control features. Both 6th Avenue and South 19th Street have two tracks, and the 6th Avenue crossing was identified and ranked (134th out of 302 crossings in Washington State) as a prominent railroad conflict location by the Joint Transportation Committee.

Review of these two crossings, combined with several public open houses, identified several alternatives to modify the pedestrian and vehicle crossing experience. Based on available funding and public feedback, the selected alternative at each location realigns pedestrian sidewalk/crossing locations, adds, and relocates pedestrian and vehicle railroad gates, upgrades railroad signals, relocates conflicting driveways, and installs signage, pavement markings and fencing. The BNSF improvements contained in these contracts (vehicle and pedestrian railroad gates and other rail infrastructure), will complement the City's work (upgrades to sidewalk, paving, fencing, etc.) at these locations in an effort to meet the Washington State Department of



Transportation goals of reducing the number of fatalities, injuries, and crashes at public grade crossing locations.

ISSUE: The City has been working with BNSF on the improvements at these two railroad crossings. BNSF's work is 90 percent complete, involving upgrades to railroad signals and relocation of vehicle and pedestrian railroad gates. The remaining 10 percent of BNSF's work, installing the gates, will be deferred until the City Council approval of the contract increases and after the City's contractor finishes their enhancements to prevent potential damages to the equipment.

ALTERNATIVES: The alternative would be to not complete the already started rail crossing equipment improvements. This would not meet the City and State's goal of improving pedestrian and traffic control features at railroad crossings to reduce rail/road/pedestrian conflicts.

**COMPETITIVE SOLICITATION:**

A Waiver of competitive solicitation was approved due to these services being not practicable to bid. BNSF property is under their sole jurisdiction and the City does not have authorization to select other suppliers to complete the work.

**CONTRACT HISTORY:**

- These contracts were originally awarded to BNSF Railway Company, Seattle, Washington, as a result of a waiver of competitive procurement procedures for Specification No. PW20-0228F in July 2021 for both projects; for a cumulative total of \$1,701,077.00, plus any applicable taxes.
- The original contracts are BNSF Railroad Grade Crossing Construction and Maintenance Agreements for USDOT Crossing No. 085742D (6th Avenue & Titlow Beach) and USDOT Crossing No. 085743K (South 19th Street & Narrows Marina).
- Resolution No. 39962 was adopted on March 27, 2018, accepting grant funds for rail crossing improvements.
- Resolution No. 41189 was adopted on May 2, 2023, accepting grant funds for rail crossing improvements.
- These proposed contract increases are for \$325,675.00 on USDOT Crossing No. 085742D – 6th Avenue & Titlow Beach and \$687,418.82 for USDOT Crossing No. 085743K – South 19th Street & Narrows Marina, for a cumulative increase of \$1,013,093.82, for a new cumulative total of \$2,714,170.82, plus applicable taxes.

SUSTAINABILITY: Redesigning, upgrading and interconnecting the existing rail systems, at both 6th Avenue and South 19th Street (approximately 1,600 feet apart), will limit future maintenance and streamline rail operations. Additionally, in an effort to reduce power consumption, all rail signals will be upgraded with LED technology.

EQUITY IN CONTRACTING (EIC) COMPLIANCE: Not applicable.

LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING PROGRAM (LEAP) COMPLIANCE: Not applicable.



**FISCAL IMPACT:**

**INCREASED EXPENDITURES:**

FUND NUMBER & FUND NAME	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
1060 Transportation Capital Fund	PWK-01017-04-04	5330100	\$325,675.00
1060 Transportation Capital Fund	PWK-01017-05-04	5330100	\$687,418.82
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>Up to \$1,013,093.82</b>

**REVENUES:**

FUNDING SOURCE	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
Federal WSDOT HSIP Rail Grant	PWK-01017-FS-AD-04	4333240	(\$400,000.00)
Rail, Freight and Ports Divisions State Legislative Funding	PWK-01017-FS-AD-06	4334270	(\$150,000.00)
REET 1	PWK-01017-FS-AD-01	6311101	(\$463,093.82)
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>Up to (\$ 1,013,093.82)</b>

**FISCAL IMPACT TO CURRENT BIENNIAL BUDGET: \$1,013,093.82**

**ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED?** Yes. Project expenditures are budgeted or accounted for by the above listed funding sources. These costs are budgeted in the 1060 Fund and are funded by a Federal HSIP grant, State Legislative funds, and REET 1 funds.

**IF EXPENSE IS NOT BUDGETED, PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW THEY ARE TO BE COVERED.** N/A