




TO: Mayor Strickland and City Council
FROM: William A. Gaines, Director of Tacoma Public Utilities 
COPY: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Enter into a Highway Railroad Grade Crossing Agreement with Washington State
Department of Transportation – November 28, 2017
DATE: November 3, 2017

SUMMARY:

Tacoma Rail requests City Council approval to enter into an Agreement with the Washington State Department of Transportation for safety improvements at two railroad grade crossings on State Route 509 – Marine View Drive.

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

- Strengthen and support public safety.

BACKGROUND:

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) has identified two existing passive Highway-Railroad at Grade Crossings on SR-509 (Marine View Drive) numbered USDOT #917-955P and USDOT #852-620R as locations where it desires that safety improvements be constructed. Specifically, the installation of grade crossing signal system(s) to include flashing LED lights intended to alert motorists in Northbound and Southbound lanes when railroad equipment is occupying the highway-railroad grade crossing.

Pursuant to 23 USC, Section 130, the WSDOT Agreement numbered RRB-1185 provides for reimbursement of Tacoma Rail’s direct and associated project costs relating to the design, engineering, and construction of safety improvements at the two locations, up to an amount not to exceed Two-Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,500,000.00).

ISSUE:

The State has deemed it would be in the public’s best interest to install highway-railroad grade crossing signals at the locations identified above. The installation of highway-railroad grade crossing signals will make both grade crossings more visible to motorists traversing this segment of SR-509 when trains occupy the crossings, particularly at night.

ALTERNATIVES:

One option would be to reject the Agreement and associated grant funding. However, upon completion, these improvements will provide additional safety features for motorists traversing the Marine View Drive segment of SR-509.

RECOMMENDATION:

Consistent with Section 4.11 of the City Charter, Tacoma Rail recommends the City Council authorize execution of this Highway-Railroad Grade Crossing Grant Agreement in order to accept funding from the Washington State Department of Transportation.



FISCAL IMPACT:

EXPENDITURES:

FUND NUMBER & FUND NAME *	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
4500 – Tacoma Rail	80021262		\$2,500,000.00
TOTAL			\$2,500,000.00

* General Fund: Include Department

REVENUES:

FUNDING SOURCE	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
WSDOT			\$2,500,000.00
TOTAL			\$2,500,000.00

POTENTIAL POSITION IMPACT:

POSITION TITLE	PERMANENT/ PROJECT TEMPORARY POSITION	FTE IMPACT	POSITION END DATE
TOTAL			

This section should only be completed if a subsequent request will be made to increase or decrease the current position count.

FISCAL IMPACT TO CURRENT BIENNIAL BUDGET: \$2,500,000.00 in Grant funding.

ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED? Although this specific project’s grant revenue and expense wasn’t planned for in this budget cycle, it is well within what is currently budgeted and anticipated.

IF EXPENSE IS NOT BUDGETED, PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW THEY ARE TO BE COVERED.

Expenditures are covered and budgeted. Tacoma Rail will comply with existing purchasing protocols to complete project design and engineering necessary to develop and advertise a project specification to install the safety enhancements.