

Pkts. 10-09-

2020

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Mark Gansen P.E., Civil Engineer II

Date: October 9, 2020

Subject: **24th Street Sidewalk Crossing of Union Pacific Railroad**

At its September 8, 2020 meeting, City Council asked staff to reach back out to the railroad to restart conversations to complete the sidewalk crossing at this location.

BACKGROUND:

In 2018, staff began conversations with Union Pacific Railroad regarding installing a new crossing for the sidewalk along the north side of 24th Street. Staff developed a design that met Union Pacific requirements and initiated conversations for the crossing agreement. Unfortunately, at that time, Union Pacific (UP) performed layoffs for a significant portion of their general and administrative support staff structure. Following the layoffs, many of these positions were hired back as consultants and the administrative costs of communicating with UP then became the responsibility of the local agency when coordination is required.

In order to move forward with preparing a crossing agreement, Union Pacific required that the City would have to provide payment of \$10,000 to cover “collaboration costs”. This was a new, unforeseen, significant expense to the sidewalk crossing project, especially considering the construction of the actual sidewalk itself is only estimated at \$10,000 (estimate, below). Staff then reached out to other jurisdictions to see how they were handling this new requirement

but found no alternative process had been discovered to avoid these new costs associated with coordinating with UP.

<u>WORK ITEM</u>	<u>EST. COST</u>
Construction of the sidewalk	\$10,000
Union Pacific installed crossing panels	\$15,000
<u>Union Pacific fees and permits</u>	<u>\$18,100</u>
TOTAL	\$43,100

COORDINATED APPROACH:

Currently, the portion of 24th Street from Stange Road to the Union Pacific Railroad is programmed for improvements in FY 2021/22 of the Capital Improvement Plan (Concrete Pavement Improvements program). This reconstruction project will most likely include reconstruction of the railroad approaches on both sides of the tracks, thus requiring UP coordination and permitting fees. Design for this roadway project would begin in summer of 2021 and coordination with Union Pacific will be required to perform the work on the approaches.

Staff believes significant Union Pacific required fees could be saved if the sidewalk construction is coordinated to be included with the 24th Street reconstruction project. The UP costs/fees will already be necessary for the 24th Street project and can be more easily accounted for with the larger budget of the Concrete Pavement Improvements program. A savings in sidewalk construction costs may also be realized by including the work with the street project through economies of scale.