



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: City Utilities

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: March 4, 2024

Re: Authorizing the City Manager to pursue a grant application to the U.S. Economic Development Administration for the Columbia Terminal Railroad (COLT)

Executive Summary

Staff has prepared for Council consideration a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application for the U.S. Economic Development Administration funding. The funding request will be for the Columbia Terminal Railroad (COLT) rail infrastructure upgrades.

Discussion

The U.S. Economic Development Administration provides funding for infrastructure development and upgrades. The City of Columbia's COLT has partnered with local and state stakeholders to address needed upgrades to the COLT railroad corridor. The proposed project will enhance the local railroad's resiliency and connectivity by increasing capacity to handle the heavier, more cost-efficient freight loads required in the global economy. In addition, the upgrades will provide for a stronger multimodal transportation network in Central Missouri's freight supply chain system.

The rail resiliency and connectivity projects will upgrade a total of 8.5 miles (ten sections) of the rail corridor incapable of accommodating high capacity cars without significantly reducing the train speed. The upgrades will include replacing deficient rail with industry standard 115 lb. rail, and adding new ties and ballast for safety and to increase efficiency.

The application requests the federal funding match of 80 percent with the City's match of 20 percent. The project cost estimate is \$4,000,000 and funding for the City's match will be from the General Fund retained earnings.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: Total funding for the City's match is anticipated to be \$800,000 for the project.

Long-Term Impact: No anticipated fiscal impact due to the grant application.



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Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Reliable and Sustainable Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Mobility, Connectivity, and Accessibility, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

Date	Action
None	None

Suggested Council Action

Approval of the resolution.