



## Board Summary Report

**Date:** July 28, 2020

**To:** Board of County Commissioners

**Through:** Shannon Carter, Open Spaces Department Director

**From:** Brett Collins, Grants and Acquisitions Manager

**Subject:** City of Greenwood Village – High Line Canal Crossing Improvements Joint Project Application

**Request and Recommendation:**

Open Spaces staff and the Open Space Trails Advisory Board (OSTAB) recommends the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) approve the expenditure of \$75,000 in Open Space Acquisition and Development funding for crossing improvements to the High Line Canal Trail at East Orchard Road. Please see the attached Joint Projects Application for details.

**Background:**

Arapahoe County completed a feasibility study on behalf of the High Line Canal Working Group in 2014 to evaluate alternative improvements to the roadway crossings of the High Line Canal Trail at nine locations within the County. The study identifies two alternates for the High Line Canal Trail crossing at East Orchard Road, which includes an improved at-grade crossing and an underpass. East Orchard Road is a 48-foot-wide two-lane road carrying 7,000-9,000 vehicles per day and has a posted speed limit of 35 mph. The High Line Canal Trail crossing currently includes crosswalk markings, warning signs, and pedestrian-activated rapid flashing beacons to stop traffic. After analysis of both alternates, the at-grade crossing was recommended due to the high cost and constructability of the underpass at this location.

The boundary between the City of Greenwood Village and the City of Centennial is approximately the centerline of East Orchard Road. In 2015, a Joint Project Grant was awarded to the City of Greenwood Village and the City of Centennial for the crossing improvement design drawings, which were completed in 2017. The project is now ready for completion of construction documents, bidding, and construction.

**Links to Align Arapahoe:**

**Service First**

Increased customer service by improving the experience for trail users in the area.

**Fiscal Responsibility**

Promotes responsible spending by leveraging County funding with partner agencies to optimize the use of resources.

**Quality of Life**

The project will increase safety and decrease trail user stress at the new crossing.

**Discussion:**

The proposed construction project is a continuation of the effort to provide an improved High Line Canal Trail crossing at East Orchard Road, and it builds on the successful completion of the design drawings. Orchard Road is approximately 48 feet wide at this location, which is extraordinarily wide for a two-lane road. This width provides the opportunity to construct 12-foot bump-outs of the curb on both sides of Orchard Road to shorten the crossing length and improve the visibility of the trail users as they approach the crossing. The existing rapid flashing beacons will also be moved out to enhance visibility and effectiveness.

The goal of the crossing improvements is to increase the safety of trail users along this highly traveled section of the High Line Canal Trail, which saw 143,000 users in 2017 verified using a trail counter.

The City of Greenwood Village, in partnership with the City of Centennial, is requesting \$75,000 in Joint Project Funds to construct an improved crossing of the High Line Canal Trail at East Orchard Road. Each agency is contributing \$37,500 for a total project cost of \$150,000.

Both agencies will share responsibilities for the maintenance of the project within their jurisdictions.

Greenwood Village has met the requirements for a Joint Project Application, and if funding is approved, the proposed construction will take place between August 2020 and July 2021.

**Alternatives:**

Approve, modify, or deny the Joint Project Application funding request.

**Fiscal Impact:**

Arapahoe County Open Spaces Acquisition and Development funds pledged to the High Line Canal Working Group in the amount of \$75,000 will be used to match the applicant's funding. The fund balance exceeds this amount.

**Concurrence:**

OSTAB recommended the High Line Canal Crossing Improvements Joint Project Application for BoCC approval on June 22, 2020. Please see the attached motion and vote.

**Attorney Comments:**

None

**Reviewed By:**

Brett Collins, Grants and Acquisitions Manager  
Shannon Carter, Open Spaces and Intergovernmental Relations Director  
Tiffanie Bleu, Assistant County Attorney  
Todd Weaver, Director of Finance

**Attachments:**

Application-HLC Crossing Improvements Joint Project 6.1.20  
OSTAB-Rec HLC Crossing Improvements Joint Project 6.22.20

**RESOLUTION NO.** \_\_\_\_\_ It was moved by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ and duly seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ to approve a request for funding in the amount of \$75,000 in Open Space Acquisition and Trails funds for the High Line Canal Trail Crossing Improvements on Orchard Road West of University Boulevard Project, contingent on the contribution of matching funds and the execution of an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) between Arapahoe County and the City of Greenwood Village as presented to the Board of County Commissioners on this date.

The vote was:

Commissioner Baker, ; Commissioner Conti, ; Commissioner Holen, ; Commissioner Jackson, ; Commissioner Sharpe, .

The Chair declared the motion carried and so ordered.