

STAFF REPORT

Date: December 11, 2024

To: Mayor and City Council

Through: Jackie Bryant, Interim City Manager

Subject: Staff Report (For Possible Action): Authorization to award a contract for the installation of wildlife fencing and other appurtenances for the Horse Protection Project – South Phase in accordance with competitive bidding laws set forth in Chapter 338 of NRS in an amount not to exceed \$660,000 and provide authorization for the Interim City Manager to sign the contract. (General Capital Fund)

From: John Flansberg, Regional Infrastructure Administrator

Department: Regional Infrastructure

Summary:

In 2022, the City of Reno held three virtual workshops to engage with the public to improve safety in South Reno with one of the main topics related to vehicle-horse accidents. One action from that workshop was the development of a wildlife safety management plan that recommended an alignment for fencing along the interface of the Virginia Range with the City of Reno. Council set aside \$500,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the design and construction of the Horse Protection Project – North Phase. Council awarded the contract to construct this portion of fence on July 31, 2024. This project is nearly complete and provides a continuous barrier from Mira Loma Drive to Kenneth Way.

Council has also approved funding from the 2024 contingency to design and construct the Horse Protection Project – South Phase which will extend this continuous barrier south to Toll Road and west to Highway 395A. This portion of the project includes crossing State Route 341 and NDOT has agreed to reimburse the City for the design and construction of improvements along this route. Staff is requesting that Council approve the award of a contract and authorize the Interim City Manager to sign in an amount not to exceed \$660,000.

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

Infrastructure, Climate Change, and Environmental Sustainability
Public Safety

Previous Council Action:

July 31, 2024: Council approved the award of Construction Contract to Soil-Tech, Inc. for the Horse Protection Project – North Phase in an amount not to exceed \$457,188.70 using ARPA funds and General Capital Projects Fund.

June 12, 2024: Council approved \$315,000 from 2024 contingency for design and construction of the Horse Protection Project – South Phase.

May 22, 2024: Council approved \$60,000 from 2024 contingency for emergency fencing in South Reno to improve safety for the traveling public and horses.

March 8, 2023: Council set aside \$500,000 of ARPA funding for design and construction of the Horse Protection Project – North Phase that included fencing and cattleguard installation.

Background:

As development in Nevada continues to increase in major metropolitan areas, including Washoe County, Virginia Range horses will continue to pose challenges along unfenced area roadways, creating a safety concern when they come into contact with vehicles. The City of Reno held three public meetings in 2022 to engage with the public and develop solutions to improve safety. Representatives from Washoe County, Nevada Department of Transportation, Wild Horse Connection, and American Wild Horse Campaign participated in these discussions.

As a result of the feedback and in order to address short-term items of concern, speed radar feedback signs and a specific nighttime speed limit were installed on Veterans Parkway. As it relates to future developments, uniform fencing standards were incorporated along the Virginia Range interface with the City of Reno. Finally, Council set aside \$500,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act funds to design, furnish and install fencing and cattleguards as necessary to reduce vehicle-horse collisions. This project is under construction and nearly completed and provides for a continuous barrier from Mira Loma Drive to Kenneth Way and is known as the Horse Protection Project – North Phase.

Discussion:

Council has approved funding for the Horse Protection Project – South Phase which will extend the continuous fence from Kenneth Way south across State Route 341 (Geiger Grade) to Toll Road and west to Highway 395A. The fence alignment will tie into existing fences or construct new fences as necessary to provide for the continuous barrier. The Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) intends to enter into an interlocal agreement to reimburse the City of Reno for improvements constructed along State Route 341 including design and professional services associated with construction that is on this same Council agenda for consideration.

The request to authorize the Interim City Manager to sign the construction contract is to expedite the ordering of materials so the project may be completed in this fiscal year. Staff is anticipating that the construction bid proposals will be available in mid-December and if the proposals are within \$660,000 and the funding limits set aside individually by the City and NDOT, the contract could be awarded based upon Interim City Manager approval.

See attachment for proposed fencing alignment.

Financial Implications:

Funding for this project has been approved by Council previously and through an interlocal agreement with the Nevada Department of Transportation, the City will be reimbursed for expenses related to work completed along State Route 341.

Legal Implications:

Legal review completed for compliance with Nevada law.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Council authorize the award of a contract for the installation of wildlife fencing and other appurtenances for the Horse Protection Project – South Phase in accordance with competitive bidding laws set forth in Chapter 338 of NRS in an amount not to exceed \$660,000 and provide authorization for the Interim City Manager to sign the contract.

Proposed Motion:

I move to approve staff recommendation.

Attachments:

Fencing alignment