

STAFF REPORT

Date: August 28, 2024

To: Mayor and City Council

Through: Jackie Bryant, Interim City Manager

Subject: Ordinance Adoption – Bill No. 7275 (For Possible Action): An Ordinance to amend Title 8, Chapter 8.10, of the Reno Municipal Code entitled “Offenses Against Property”, prohibiting trespassing upon railroad tracks; and other matters properly relating thereto.

From: Travis Truhill, Director

Department: Maintenance and Operations

Summary:

On August 14, 2024, City staff provided a presentation and introduced an ordinance for first reading to help address railroad maintenance access, reduce repair costs and stormwater collection system interference, and ensure the corridor is unobstructed in case of emergencies.

Council approved the ordinance introduction of a new Reno Municipal Code (RMC) in Title 8, Chapter 8.10, as Section 8.10.011 prohibiting trespassing upon railroad tracks. Staff recommends Council approve the second reading and adoption of the new ordinance into RMC Title 8.

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

Public Safety

Infrastructure, Climate Change, and Environmental Sustainability

Previous Council Action:

During the August 14, 2024, Council meeting, staff provided a presentation and ordinance introduction. Council approved the ordinance introduction and first reading.

During the July 24, 2024, Council meeting, staff provided a presentation and Council directed staff to bring forth an RMC ordinance to prohibit encroachments adjacent to the railroad.

During the April 24, 2024, Council meeting, Council unanimously accepted the Directed Engagement, Enforcement, and Deployment Strategy (DEEDS) report and asked staff to bring forth potential solutions to help address the railroad corridor.

Discussion:

On July 24, 2024, Council was presented with the maintenance implications, financial impacts, ongoing debris disposal, and rising safety concerns adjacent to the railroads in the City of Reno and requested an ordinance introduction.

On August 14, 2024, an ordinance prohibiting trespassing within 100 feet of the railroad to address these ongoing concerns, protect lives, and reduce maintenance repairs was introduced and approved. As part of the ordinance process, the ordinance is being presented for a second reading and adoption.

Upon adoption, the proposed new ordinance will be added to the existing Title 8, Chapter 8.10 entitled “Offenses Against Property”, as Section 8.10.011 prohibiting trespassing upon railroad tracks, codifying federal safety standards in RMC, prohibiting activity on land that is not intended for public use, and revising current signage requirements. The ordinance establishes the 100 feet measurement from the outermost point of the railroad track extending out in each direction. General access points and lawful use of areas within 100 feet of the railroad will not be impacted by this ordinance. A significant benefit of this ordinance over standard trespassing is that it will not require posting of signs every 500 feet along the railroad corridor, currently required by law, and it identifies railroad tracks as a marker.

Should the ordinance be adopted, staff will conduct public outreach to inform the community.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications associated with this item.

Legal Implications:

Legal review completed for compliance with City procedures and Nevada law.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Council adopt Ordinance No. _____.

Proposed Motion:

I move to adopt Ordinance No. _____.

Attachments:

Reno Municipal Code – Trespassing Upon Railroad Tracks Ordinance