

## STAFF REPORT

---

**Date:** December 11, 2024

**To:** Mayor and City Council

**Through:** Jackie Bryant, Interim City Manager

**Subject:** Staff Report (For Possible Action): Approval of an interlocal agreement between the City of Reno and the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) for the City to install and construct wildlife fencing along State Route 341 (Geiger Grade) as part of the City's Horse Protection Project – South Phase and for NDOT to reimburse the City for this work in an amount not to exceed \$280,000.

**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 improvements included along this route. Staff is requesting that Council approve this interlocal agreement that outlines the reimbursement of an amount not to exceed \$280,000 for the design and installation of wildlife fencing and a cattleguard along State Route 341.

### 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. Since a portion of the project includes crossing State Route 341, NDOT has agreed to reimburse the City for improvements constructed along this route.

The attached interlocal agreement (attachment A) provides for reimbursement of an amount not

to exceed \$280,000 which includes design, construction, and professional services for the installation of wildlife fencing and a cattleguard along State Route 341. The agreement also outlines the requirements and processes that each agency commits to as it relates to permitting, reimbursement, and maintenance and provides for completion of the project by June 30, 2025.

See attachment B for proposed fencing alignment.

**Financial Implications:**

This agreement will reimburse the City's General Capital Fund for expenses related to improvements along State Route 341.

**Legal Implications:**

The Interlocal Agreement is pursuant to State Law and provides reimbursement to the City in an amount not to exceed \$280,000.

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends approval of the Interlocal Agreement for reimbursement by the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) to the City to install and construct wildlife fencing along State Route 341 (Geiger Grade) as part of the City's Horse Protection Project – South Phase in an amount not to exceed \$280,000.

**Proposed Motion:**

I move to approve staff recommendation.

**Attachments:**

A – NDOT Interlocal Agreement for SR341 Wildlife Fencing

B – Fencing alignment