

## STAFF REPORT

---

**Date:** May 22, 2024

**To:** Mayor and City Council

**Through:** Doug Thornley, City Manager

**Subject:** Staff Report (For Possible Action): Presentation, discussion, and potential approval of contingency funds for fencing in South Reno to improve safety for the traveling public and horses in an amount not to exceed \$600,000.

**From:** John Flansberg, Regional Infrastructure Administrator

**Department:** Regional Infrastructure

---

### **Summary:**

On March 8, 2023, Council approved \$500,000 of State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) received through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for Virginia Range Horses Fencing. These funds will be used to construct barrier fencing from Mira Loma Drive to Alexander Lake Road and to install horse guards as needed to protect wild horses and urban property. Specifically, the fencing project will greatly reduce vehicle-horse collisions in South Reno along Veterans Parkway and surrounding neighborhood streets.

Virginia Range Horses are also gaining access to Veterans Parkway along Geiger Grade and Toll Road which are not fenced. This agenda item is requesting \$600,000 from contingency for fencing from Geiger Grade to Rhodes Road and Highway 395A to extend the barrier and fence out horses to create additional separation from vehicular traffic.

### **Alignment with Strategic Plan:**

Public Safety

### **Previous Council Action:**

March 8, 2023 – Council approved the allocation of the remaining \$28,150,044.97 in SLFRF received through ARPA on May 19, 2021, including the possible allocation to specific projects identified through the public, Council, and staff engagement process or general spending categories identified by Council as a priority for fund allocation by December 31, 2024.

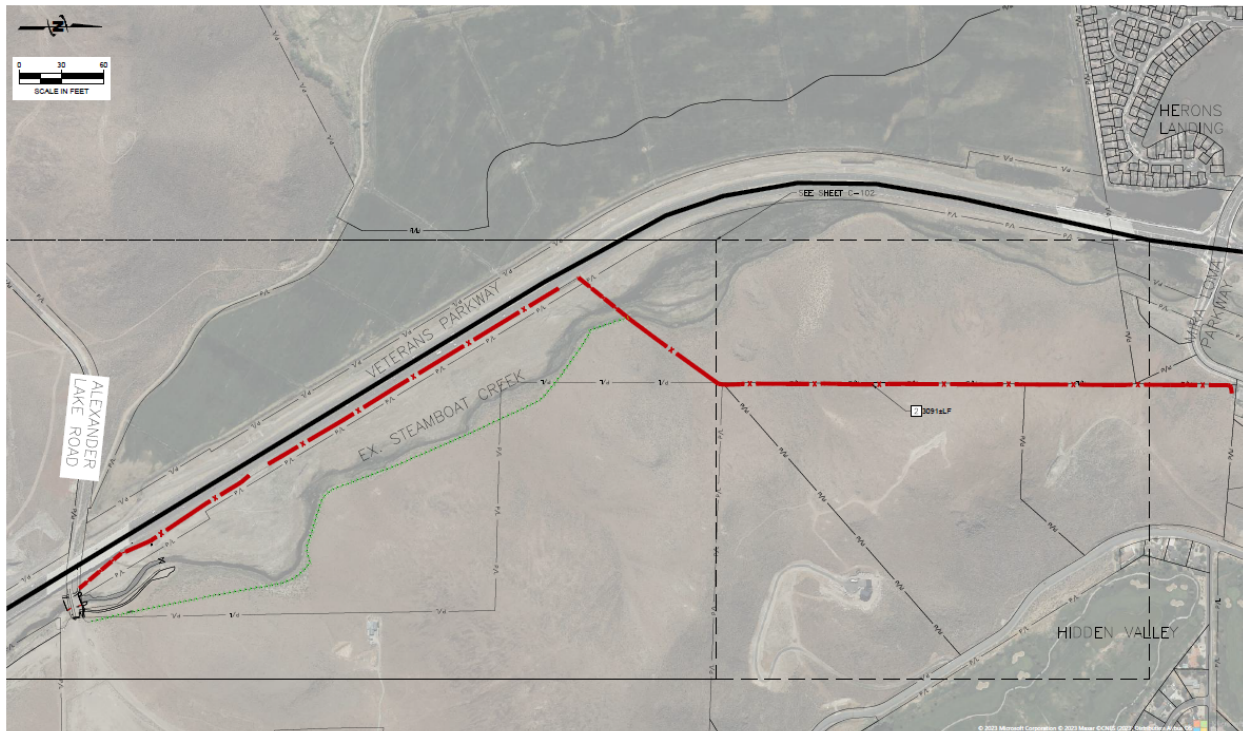
### **Background:**

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, the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT), Wild Horse Connection, and the American Wild Horse Campaign participated in these discussions. As a result of the feedback, speed radar feedback signs and a specific nighttime speed limit were installed on Veterans Parkway. In addition, uniform fencing standards were incorporated for future developments within the Virginia Range interface with the City of Reno.

### **Discussion:**

J-U-B Engineers, Inc. was retained to work on a Wildlife and Safety Management Plan for the City of Reno in South Reno to include a fencing plan from Mira Loma Drive to Rio Wrangler Drive and coordination with developers on their improvements as they relate to fencing and horse guards. The fencing contract documents are nearing completion and will be out to bid in June. These improvements were approved and funded by ARPA.

Proposed fence alignment from Mira Loma Drive to Alexander Lake Road:

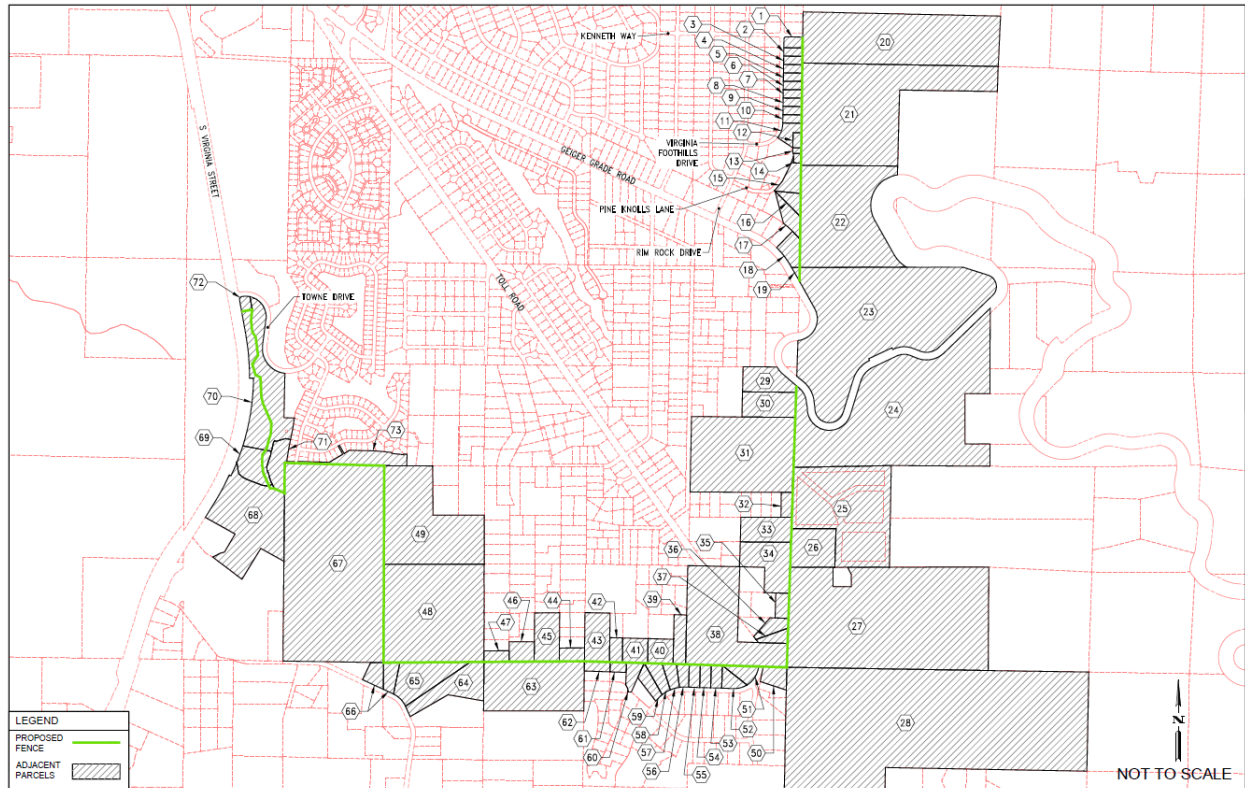


Staff is seeking \$600,000 from contingency to fence from Geiger Grade to Rhodes Road and Highway 395A to separate horses and vehicular traffic along this section of the Virginia Range.

These funds will be used to coordinate with the Nevada Department of Agriculture, NDOT, horse advocacy groups, and property owners; provide design and contract documents; and

construct fencing and horse guards as needed. Staff will continue working with our agency partners to participate in these improvements.

Proposed fence alignment from Geiger Grade to Highway 395A:



### Financial Implications:

City of Reno contingency will be reduced by up to \$600,000.

### Legal Implications:

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

### Recommendation:

Staff recommends Council approve the use of contingency funds for Virginia Range Horse fencing in an amount not to exceed \$600,000.

### Proposed Motion:

I move to approve staff recommendation.

### Attachments: