



DATE: November 22, 2022

TO: Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Councilmember Jack Shu and Councilmember Bill Baber

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF DIRECTING STAFF TO SEEK FUNDING POSSIBILITIES INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, PARTNERING WITH THE SAN DIEGO ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS (SANDAG) TO SUBMIT A CALTRANS PLANNING GRANT, TO ASSESS THE FEASIBILITY OF GRADE SEPARATION FOR SPRING STREET AND THE TROLLEY LINE THROUGH THE CITY OF LA MESA

That the City investigates and seeks funding possibilities for a grade separation feasibility study for Spring Street and the trolley line through the City of La Mesa. The feasibility study and other associated work will be in partnership and/or collaboration with SANDAG, MTS and other agencies as appropriate.

La Mesa has the opportunity to partner with SANDAG to submit a Caltrans planning grant to assess the feasibility of grade separation for the Spring Street trolley station. The planning study will identify and assess feasibility of alternatives to enhance rail operations through La Mesa. This study will look to reduce barriers to multi-modal circulation in the project area. The team anticipates analyzing planning concepts for alignments both above and below grade. The study will develop planning-level conceptual design and high-level cost estimates that incorporate and address design criteria for increased operational efficiency of the trolley, freight, passenger vehicles, buses, bikes and pedestrians. The study area will be from the junction of the Orange and Green lines north of the freeway south to the La Mesa trolley station and extending to the Spring Street trolley station.

Grant applications are expected to be due in early 2023 and before an application is submitted, it will be presented to the City Council for review and approval.