

An Application Seeking Funding Under the Federal Railroad Administration's
Federal-State Partnership Program

Vista Road Crossing Closure and Grade Separation Project

Applicant:
San Bernardino County



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1. COVER PAGE TABLE

Project Title	Vista Road Crossing Closure and Grade Separation Project
Lead Applicant Name	San Bernardino County
Joint Applicant Name(s)	N/A
Amount of FSP Program funding requested under this NOFO.9 \$	\$37,496,000
Amount of proposed non-Federal share \$	\$9,374,000
Source(s) of proposed non-Federal share	BNSF Railways
Amount of other Federal funding, if applicable \$	N/A
Source (s) of other Federal funding, if applicable	N/A
Total Project Cost \$	\$46,870,000
Capital Cost Estimate	\$46,870,000
All costs and the value of any resources needed to complete the Project Development, Final Design, and Construction stages of a capital project.	\$46,870,000
Total cost by Lifecycle Stage(s) for which funding is requested under this NOFO (list each Lifecycle Stage and cost separately)	Project Development: \$3,610,000 Final Design: \$500,000 Construction: \$42,760,000
Is right of way acquisition (ROW) part of this funding request?	No
City, State where the project is located	Helendale, CA
Congressional District(s) where the project is located	CA-28
Geospatial data for project location(s) in decimal degrees (with at least five decimal places of precision). If a track segment or corridor, provide start and end point data.	Grade Separation: 34° 43' 32.93"N, 117° 19' 56.52"W New Road Start: 34° 43' 58.67"N, 117° 19' 45.35"W New Road Finish: 34° 43' 32.93"N, 117° 19' 56.52"W Crossing Closure: 34° 43' 58.67"N, 117° 19' 45.35"W
Current Lifecycle Stage of project at time of application	Project Development
Anticipated completion date of current Lifecycle Stage	August 2027
Application Lifecycle Stage(s) proposed to be funded by this NOFO	Project Development Final Design Construction
Existing Intercity Passenger Rail service(s) on routes greater than 750 miles benefiting from the project	Amtrak Southwest Chief

If applicable, existing Commuter Rail service(s) benefitting from the project	N/A
If applicable, what Corridor, as identified in FY 2022 CID Selections, is benefitting from the project	N/A
Host Railroad/infrastructure owner(s) of project assets and property	BNSF Railways
Other impacted Railroad(s)	Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR)
Tenant Railroad(s), if applicable	N/A
If applicable, is a 49 U.S.C. 22905-compliant Railroad Agreement in place or pending?	Pending
LOI/PFA requested?	No

2. PROJECT SUMMARY

San Bernardino County (the County) is pleased to submit this application seeking funding from the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) Federal State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail (FSP) grant program the Vista Road Crossing Closure and Grade Separation Project (Project) in the unincorporated rural community of Helendale, California. The Project is comprised of a program of infrastructure improvements including the closure of an existing at-grade crossing at Vista Road (**USDOT Crossing ID 026068N**) and the Southern Transcontinental rail corridor (Transcon) in the community of Helendale, the extension of Vista Road approximately three-quarters of a mile south and the construction of a new grade-separated structure over the rail corridor connecting to the National Trails Highway (also known as Route 66). When implemented and operational, the Project will improve the safety and reliability of passenger and freight rail operations through the elimination of an at-grade crossing with a history of safety incidents. The Project will also deliver safer, more efficient, and more reliable travel for autos and trucks coming to and from Helendale, while providing safer pedestrian and cyclist movement across the rail corridor. In addition, the Project will reduce carbon emissions and promote short- and long-term economic opportunities for the local community and greater region.



Figure 1: Vehicles Queued Vista Road While At-Grade Crossing is Occupied by Rail Traffic

Source: San Bernadino County

3. GRANT FUNDS, SOURCES, AND USE OF PROJECT FUNDS

3.1 Project Budget

The total budget for the Project has been estimated at \$46,870,000 and the County is seeking an FSP award of \$37,496,000, representing 80% of the Project's costs. A detailed overview of the project costs by lifecycle stage and project element are shown in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Vista Road Crossing Closure and Grade Separation Project: Estimated Costs

Lifecycle Stage	Project Element	Cost
Project Development	Environmental Documentation	\$350,000
	Preliminary Design (60-95%)	\$1,750,000
	Right-of-Way and Utilities Relocation	\$1,510,000
Final Design	Final Design	\$500,000
Construction	Construction	\$30,770,000
	Construction Soft Costs (PMCM, Contingency)	\$11,990,000
Project Total Cost		\$46,870,000

Source: AECOM

3.2 Sources

The FSP grant request is for \$37.5 million which will be matched by the County and their project delivery partner BNSF who will contribute a local match of \$9.4 million, or 20% of the total Project costs. The entirety of the non-federal match will come from the private sector, with the \$9.4 million contribution from BNSF considered cash and funded from their operating budget. A letter of financial commitment from project delivery partner BNSF has been included in this application. Table 2 on the following page provides an overview of the source of funding for each of the Project's elements. Though the Project is comprised of activities across the project development, final design, and construction lifecycle stages, FSP grant funding is only sought for construction lifecycle stage activities.

Table 2: Vista Road Crossing Closure and Grade Separation Project: Estimated Costs

Lifecycle Stage	Project Element	Cost (\$M)	Local Match (\$M)	FSP Ask (\$M)
Project Development	Environmental Documentation	\$0.35	\$0.35	\$-
	Preliminary Design (60-95%)	\$1.75	\$1.75	\$-
	Right-of-Way and Utilities Relocation	\$1.51	\$1.51	\$-
Final Design	Final Design	\$0.50	\$0.50	\$-
Construction	Construction	\$30.77	\$-	\$30.77
	Construction Soft Costs	\$11.99	\$5.26	\$6.73
Project Total Cost		\$46.87	\$9.55	\$37.50

Source: AECOM

3.3 Use of Funds

Table 3 provide a detailed overview of the Project's estimated costs and source of funds. It identifies each component of the project, its estimated cost, and the source of funding. The table also identifies the total project cost, the amount of the grant award sought under the FSP program, and the quantum and source of the non-federal match.

Table 3: Vista Road Crossing Closure and Grade Separation Project: Project Funding Overview

Task #	Project Component	Cost	Percentage of Total Cost	Source of Funds
1	Environmental Regulatory Analysis (CEQA and NEPA)	\$350,000	0.70%	BNSF
2	Advancement of Design from 60% to 95%	\$1,750,000	3.70%	BNSF
3	Right of Way Acquisition	\$1,510,000	3.20%	BNSF
4	Final Design	\$500,000	1.10%	BNSF
5	Construction (including soft costs)	\$42,760,000	91.20%	FSP Grant, Local match (BNSF)
Total Project Cost		\$46,870,000		FSP Grant, Local Match (BNSF)
Federal FSP funding requested in this application		\$37,496,000		FRA FSP Program
Non-Federal Funding		Cash:	\$9,374,000	BNSF
Other Federal funding committed pending		N/A		

4. APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

San Bernardino County, a political subdivision of a State, is the project sponsor and is an eligible recipient under 49 U.S. Code (U.S.C.) § 22909(c).

5. PROJECT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

This project is eligible under the following section in the FSP Program NOFO:

3(d)(ii). A project to improve intercity passenger rail service performance, including reduced trip times, increased train frequencies, higher operating speeds, improved reliability, expanded capacity, reduced congestion, electrification, and other improvements, as determined by the Secretary. A project that enhances safety including grade crossing improvement is eligible under this criterion provided the project also demonstrates an improvement to intercity passenger rail service performance.

- The Project comprises elements across the following three lifecycle stages:
- Project Development;
- Final Design; and
- Land Construction.