City of **JOPLIN** City Council Agenda Item

Requested Council Meeting Date: May 15, 2017
COUNCIL BILL NO. 2017-136

Item: Safety Improvements of Railroad Crossings on Jackson & Sergeant Avenues South of 10th Street & 18th Street Between Illinois & Wisconsin Avenues
Originating Department: PUBLIC WORKS - ENGINEERING

Attachments: 1) Location map
2) Contract
3) Bid Tab
4) Council Bill 2017-136

Engineering: David Hertzberg	Date:
Finance Department: Leslie Haase	Date:
City Attorney: Peter C. Edwards	Date:
City Manager: Samuel L. Anselm	Date:

Recommended Action: Approval of a Construction Contract with Jeff Asbell Excavating and Trucking, Inc., in the amount of $149,909.50 for the Safety Improvements of Railroad Crossings on Jackson & Sergeant Avenues South of 10th Street & 18th Street Between Illinois & Wisconsin Avenues project funded by the Capital Improvements Sales Tax.

Background: The railroad companies have approached the City in the past to eliminate or reduce the number of at-grade crossings. Closing of these crossings does impact traffic movements within the City but it also increases public safety. With the elimination of the at-grade crossings, train whistles are not blown in residential neighborhoods reducing noise pollution, rough crossings are no longer an issue, and all the maintenance to City crews/budget is reduced. In the case of Jackson Avenue, this was selected for improvements instead of closure for being a collector street. City staff also included the local neighborhood input into the decision-making process for which crossings to close and which to improve using public meetings. The meetings were successful and produced positive outcomes for these three projects.

Discussion: City staff recommends the closure of the Sergeant Avenue crossing and improving the Jackson Avenue crossing. All work in this area will be coordinated with the railroad company to minimize any delays in construction pertaining to street closures. The City's design will include a cul-de-sac at Sergeant Avenue to accommodate vehicular turnaround and improve drainage in the area. Construction on Jackson Avenue will include a total road reconstruction at the crossing to improve rideability, drainage, and public safety.

In coordination with the 20th Street viaduct opening the 18th Street crossing has already been closed by a previous agreement with the railroad company. The project is to finish the removal of the crossing by constructing curb and gutter at the street intersections to the east and west of the crossing to improve traffic flow and reduce confusion. All the pavement will be removed and replaced with grass while also improving the drainage of the area.

Recommendations: Staff recommends approval of a construction contract with Jeff Asbell

Excavating and Trucking, Inc., in the amount of $149,909.50 for the Railroad Crossing Project be approved on an emergency basis per Section 2.12 (6) of the Joplin City Charter.