

PRIORITIZATION OF THE TOP THREE RAILROAD GRADE SEPARATIONS ALONG THE BURLINGTON NORTHERN SANTA FE RAILROAD

Public Works Department

City Council

November 19, 2024

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BACKGROUND

On February 8, 2024, the Mobility & Infrastructure Committee received a report on Prioritization of Railroad Grade Separations along the BNSF railroad at Jackson Street, Madison Street, Mary Street, Spruce Street, Tyler Street, and Mission Inn Avenue. The Committee continued the item to address concerns from the residents of the Casa Blanca neighborhood and for Public Works to expand the list of the grade separations under review and include Adams Street and Mission Inn Avenue and return to the Committee with an updated report.



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BACKGROUND

On August 8, 2024, the Mobility & Infrastructure Committee received a report on the Prioritization of Railroad Grade Separations along the BNSF railroad at Jackson Street, Madison Street, Mary Street, Spruce Street, Tyler Street, and Mission Inn Avenue. The Committee recommend that the City Council (1) approve the top three proposed Grade Separation Priority Ranking as follows: (a) Spruce Street, (b) Jackson Street, and (c) Mary Street at BNSF railroad crossings; and (2) direct the Public Works Department to explore funding opportunities to begin the Project Approval and Environmental Documents phase of the Spruce Street grade separation.

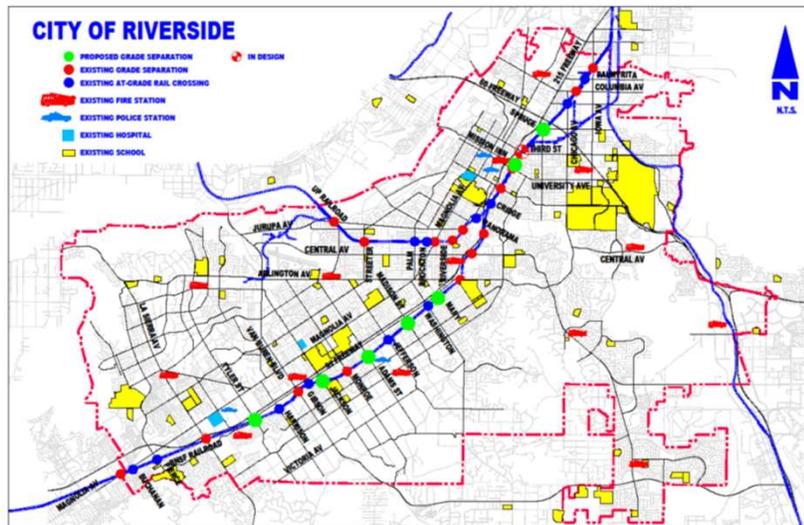


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Railroad Crossings



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DISCUSSION

- Since 2009 City has completed 6 grade separations.
- Public Works is working on the final design and right-of-way acquisition for the 3rd St. grade separation which is scheduled to begin construction in mid-2026.
- In September 2023, and April 2024, Public Works collected traffic, pedestrian, and rail crossing data.



Eligible for \$12.08 MM in local TUMF funding

DISCUSSION

Table 1 – Rail Crossing Traffic Data

Street/BNSF Rail Crossing	Average Daily Traffic Counts	Average Daily Pedestrian Counts	Average Daily Bicycle Counts	No. of School Buses**	No. of School Special Need Vans**	No. of Passenger Buses	TUMF Network
Adams Street	12,372	247	25	36	-	43	No
Jackson Street	7,884	218	31	-	8	2	No
Madison Street	13,923	381	52	12	10	4	Yes
Mary Street	12,149	68	75	6	4	5	No
Mission Inn Avenue	5,074	182	101	16	-	18	No
Spruce Street	16,255	32	56	4	4	16	No
Tyler Street	15,407	79	36	6	2	88	No



DISCUSSION

Table 2 – Rail Crossing Data

Street/BNSF Rail Crossing	Average Daily Train Count	Gate Down Time (Minutes)	Train Accidents: Fatal/Non-Fatal (Past 10 Years)	2017 RCTC Priority Group	Railroad Quiet Zone	Freeway Connectivity	Estimated Cost (\$MM)
Adams Street	90	140	0/0	1	Yes	Yes	150.0+
Jackson Street	90	156	0/0	3	Yes	No	60.0
Madison Street	90	184	2/0	1	Yes	Yes	60.0
Mary Street	90	180	0/0	3	Yes	No	60.0
Mission Inn Avenue	92	181	1/1	3	Future	Yes	75.0
Spruce Street	90	196	1/0	1	Future	Yes	75.0
Tyler Street	92	145	2/1	1	Yes	Yes	100.0+



DISCUSSION

- February 20, 2024 – Staff attended the Community Action Group (Casa Blanca)
- Staff recommends that Madison Street/BNSF be removed from the priority list and studied as part of the General Plan Circulation Element.
- Recommended Top 3 grade separations:
 1. Spruce St.
 2. Jackson St.
 3. Mary St.



STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT



Strategic Priority No. 6 Infrastructure, Mobility and Connectivity

Goal No. 6.2 – Maintain, protect, and improve assets and infrastructure within the City's built environment to ensure and enhance reliability, resiliency, sustainability, and facilitate connectivity.



Community Trust



Fiscal Responsibility



Sustainability &
Resiliency



Equity



Innovation



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RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Council:

1. Approve the top three proposed Grade Separation Priority Ranking as follows: (1) Spruce Street, (2) Jackson Street, and (3) Mary Street at the BNSF at-grade railroad crossing; and
2. Direct the Public Works Department to explore funding opportunities in-order to begin the Project Approval and Environmental Documents phase of the Spruce Street grade separation.



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