

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMUNICATION
AUGUST 2, 2016 AGENDA**

Subject:	Action Required:	Approved By:
<p>Authorizing the use of eminent domain and relocation expenses for the Geyer Springs Railroad Grade Separation Project</p> <p>Submitted By:</p> <p>Public Works Department</p>	<p>Ordinance ✓ Resolution Approval Information Report</p>	<p>Bruce T. Moore City Manager</p>
SYNOPSIS	<p>Authorizes relocation expenses and gives the City Attorney authority to utilize eminent domain if needed to complete acquisition of right-of-way, permanent and temporary construction easements for the Geyer Springs Railroad Grade Separation Project, AHTD No. 060907, LR No. B-2a. <i>This project is in Ward 2.</i></p>	
FISCAL IMPACT	<p>Funding for this project is available from a Transportation Improvement Grant Funds from the Federal Highway Administration with match funds and funds for acquisition services from the 2013 Capital Improvement Bonds for Streets and Drainage and the 3/8-Cent Capital Improvement Sales and Compensating Use Tax as authorized by Resolution No. 13,699, and as amended by Resolution No. 14,269. The estimated total project cost is \$11 million.</p>	
RECOMMENDATION	<p>Approval of the resolution.</p>	
BACKGROUND	<p>City Staff has initiated the process of acquiring land and right-of-way necessary for the construction of the Geyer Spring Railroad Grade Separation Project between Hutig and 65th Street. The project includes construction of a bridge over the Union Pacific railroad tracks and a new four (4)-lane roadway with sidewalk. The project was first planned beginning in 2000.</p>	

**BACKGROUND
CONTINUED**

Staff is asking for authorization to pay relocation expenses for a wrecker business, an auto shop and one (1) residential house. The expenses are grant eligible and required under the Uniform Act Governing Acquisition.

There are nine (9) parcels total for the job. The authority to use eminent domain is needed to assure all parcels are acquired in a timely manner to meet the schedule requirements associated with the Federal Funding. Every effort will be made to negotiate the purchase of the parcels at fair market prices before taking further action.