

Executive Summary

Peoria/Smith Road Grade Separation Project Ordinance Request

The above project is a combined effort of the City, the City of Aurora and RTD to provide for a crossing improvement at the intersection of Peoria Street with the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) and the soon to be constructed RTD East Corridor Commuter Rail Line near Smith Road and 37th Avenue. The existing UPRR and the forthcoming RTD East Corridor Commuter Rail line present safety concerns and traffic operational challenges where the rail lines intersect with street and pedestrian traffic. Without improvements, roadway safety, operations, and multimodal (pedestrian, bicycle, car, truck, and train) connectivity problems will worsen as rail, vehicle, and pedestrian traffic volumes increase. In addition to the new overpass crossing there will a pedestrian bridge built across the tracks.

This project will require the acquisition through a negotiated purchase or condemnation of all or any portion or any property interest in 22 properties, including easement interests, access rights, billboards, improvements, buildings, fixtures, licenses, permits and other appurtenances as part of the Peoria/Smith Road Grade Separation Project.

Public outreach, including public meetings were held in November 2011 and March 2012. Meetings with individual businesses in the project area in November and December 2011, helped to inform the analysis of alternatives. Meetings are ongoing.