

Introduced by _____

First Reading _____

Second Reading _____

Ordinance No. _____

Council Bill No. B 350-08

AN ORDINANCE

approving a loan from the Electric Utility to the Railroad Utility for the replacement of the Columbia Terminal Railroad (COLT) highway-rail crossing surface at U.S. Highway 63; appropriating funds; and fixing the time when this ordinance shall become effective.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City Council hereby approves a \$565,000.00 loan from the Electric Utility to the Railroad Utility for the replacement of the Columbia Terminal Railroad highway-rail crossing surface at U.S. Highway 63. The loan shall be repaid over a period of 15 years at an interest rate of 5% per year.

SECTION 2. The sum of \$565,000.00 is hereby appropriated from the Loans to Other Funds (Electric) Account No. 551-0000-133.01-00 to the US 63 Crossing Account No. 503-7388-881.68-57, ER0056 for the replacement of the Columbia Terminal Railroad (COLT) highway-rail crossing surface at U.S. Highway 63.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

PASSED this _____ day of _____, 2008.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor and Presiding Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Counselor

CERTIFICATION: I certify there are sufficient funds available in the Loans to Other Funds (Electric) Account No. 551-0000-133.01-00 to cover the above appropriation.

Director of Finance

Source:

Water & Light
Department




J. Kraig Kahler

Fiscal Impact

YES

NO

Other Info.

TO: City Council
FROM: City Manager and Staff 
DATE: October 16, 2008
RE: Replacement of US 63 Highway-Rail Crossing Surface

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Staff has prepared for Council consideration an ordinance authorizing the replacement of the Columbia Terminal Railroad's (COLT) highway-rail crossing surface at US 63 in Columbia, and appropriating funds. The existing highway-rail crossing surface is over 20 years old, has exceeded its design life, and is in poor condition. Extensive traffic control and detour facilities are required to complete the project. Total project cost is estimated at \$565,000.

DISCUSSION: COLT's highway-rail crossing at US 63 was constructed by MoDOT in the middle 1980s concurrent with the construction of US 63 in north Columbia. The crossing surface is now over 20 years old, has exceeded its expected design life and is in poor condition. In addition, the track and railroad roadbed through the crossing are also in poor condition. COLT has made several repairs to the crossing over the past few years. Repairs are no longer sufficient to keep the crossing in acceptable condition, thus the crossing requires replacement.

US 63 is a four-lane divided highway with a 70 mph speed limit used by over 22,000 vehicles per day. In addition, exit and entrance ramps to and from Route B are in the highway-rail crossing area. To properly construct new roadbed, track and crossing surfaces, one direction of US 63 must be closed while the respective crossing is constructed. Then the process must be repeated for the other direction of US 63.

As part of the US 63 railroad bridge design project, COLT had the consulting engineer develop detour and traffic control plans for the replacement of the US 63 crossing surface. A detour roadway will be constructed between the north and south bound lanes of US 63 in the vicinity of the railroad crossing. The railroad will be taken out of service south of US 63 for a 3 to 4 week period while the detour roadway is constructed, the track and crossings are replaced, and the detour roadway is removed.

The detour roadway and traffic control is estimated to cost \$355,000 while the railroad portion of the project is expected to cost \$210,000, giving a total project cost of \$565,000. Staff recommends that COLT use a loan from the Electric Fund to pay for this project. The loan will be payable over a period of 15 years at an interest rate of 5.0%.

COLT has engaged Modjeski & Masters, a consulting engineering firm, to design a new railroad bridge over US 63. Design is being funded by the Public Works Department and is expected to be complete next fall. The

bridge is expected to cost about \$6 million, but funding has not yet been identified nor secured. Unfortunately, the current condition of the US 63 highway-rail surface does not allow COLT to take a wait and see approach with regard to the construction of a possible bridge. Replacement of the crossing does give COLT about 15 years, the expected life of a new crossing, to complete bridge design, secure funding, and actually construct a bridge over US 63.

SUGGESTED COUNCIL ACTION: Approval of an ordinance authorizing replacement of the US 63 highway-rail crossing and appropriating funds.

cc: Railroad Advisory Board

CJJ/jmm