

Minute Action

AGENDA ITEM: 25

Date: May 3, 2023

Subject:

Mount Vernon Viaduct Project

Recommendation:

Receive and file an update on the Mount Vernon Viaduct Project.

Background:

In 2018, San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA), in partnership with the City of San Bernardino, procured a design build contractor to demolish and replace the Mount Vernon Avenue Viaduct (MVV) which connects 2nd Street and 5th Street over the BNSF intermodal yard located in the City of San Bernardino.

Project work consists of the following major elements:

1. 44 Right-of-way acquisitions.
2. Grading (including removal of building structure foundations) of the area bounded by 4th Street, Cabrera Avenue, Kingman Street and Mount Vernon Avenue, and enclosure of this area with an architectural wall and landscaped buffer.
3. Demolishing the existing MVV, which was determined by California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) inspectors to have a low sufficiency rating and to be structurally deficient and functionally obsolete.
4. BNSF lead work to construct temporary shoofly siding tracks and relocate a maintenance building.
5. Constructing a new wider and longer bridge on a similar horizontal alignment and a slightly higher profile.
6. Reconstruction of the Mount Vernon Avenue intersections with 2nd Street and Kingman Street.
7. Utility relocations.

Demolition of the existing bridge was completed in May 2021. After the demolition, the site was to be turned over to BNSF to construct temporary facilities and shoofly siding tracks to allow passage of main line trains during construction of the new bridge. The construction and maintenance agreement with BNSF, and our schedule included 18 months for BNSF to complete their work.

One of the conditions of turning the site over to BNSF was conveyance of the properties to BNSF to accommodate the railroad's work. Transfer of properties did not occur as scheduled, and SBCTA granted a right-of-entry to BNSF on November 16, 2021, which is when BNSF started their construction. Ultimately, property conveyance happened on March 31, 2022. Eighteen months after March 2022 is September 2023, which is the date our design build contractor has been working towards to remobilize their crews to build the new MVV.

On February 22, 2023, the MVV project construction management team was notified by BNSF in a coordination meeting, that the gas line required for commissioning their new maintenance

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building had not yet been installed; and requested SBCTA assistance in coordinating with SoCal Gas to get the gas line installed as they were concerned this issue would delay their September 2023 commitment to SBCTA.

The SoCal Gas line is required for the building commissioning and certificate of occupancy; then BNSF can move the staff from the old building to the new building; the old building can be demolished; and the shoofly tracks can be completed.

According to BNSF, the application for the new gas line was submitted in March 2022. According to SoCal Gas, the application was received in September 2022. BNSF informed SBCTA that they were ready to commission the new maintenance building on December 31, 2022 and that when they requested our assistance it was because they had already sustained a delay in their schedule that would impact the start of the new bridge construction.

On April 11, 2023, SBCTA held a previously planned meeting with BNSF and our design build contractor to discuss the schedule of the project. The main schedule topic that BNSF shared was how the gas line issue was impacting their schedule estimating a three-month delay since they will now be working in the intermodal yard during the fourth quarter when train traffic increases due to the holidays.

The project team worked together to close the communication gap between BNSF and SoCal Gas. It took three (3) days for SoCal Gas to complete the work: two days to install the line (4/17 and 4/18) and one day (4/21) to install the meter and turn on the gas. On April 17, 2023, BNSF transmitted the attached letter 'SBCTA notice 4-17-23' to formally notify SBCTA of the delay.

Currently the shooflies have been constructed from either end, toward Mount Vernon Avenue and the commissioning and punch-list are in process for the new building. The new building will be ready for occupancy on May 8, 2023, and BNSF is giving the building occupants one (1) month to move from the old building to the new building, which brings them to June 8, 2023. In order to meet their commitment date of September 22, 2023, BNSF has three and a half (3 ½) months from June 8, 2023 to complete the remaining work of demolishing the existing building and completing the shooflies. Nevertheless, BNSF continues to take the position they will not allow construction of the new bridge until December 22, 2023.

In order to mitigate the BNSF delay, SBCTA is currently working with our contractor for a contract change order to begin work outside the BNSF property, at the north and south approaches of the bridge.

Financial Impact:

This item has no financial impact on the Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Budget.

Reviewed By:

This item has not received prior policy committee or technical advisory committee review.

Responsible Staff:

Henry Stultz, Director of Project Delivery

Approved
Board of Directors
Date: May 3, 2023
Witnessed By: