



CITY OF COMMERCE AGENDA REPORT

TO: Honorable City Council

Item No. _____

FROM: City Administrator

SUBJECT: Proposed Ferguson Drive Railroad Sound Wall Project

MEETING DATE: December 6, 2016

RECOMMENDATION:

At the request of Councilmember Argumedo, the City Council will receive a staff report on the proposed Ferguson Drive railroad sound wall project.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

On February 17, 2016, the City Administrator addressed a letter to Lupe Valdez, Public Policy & Community Affairs Director for Union Pacific Railroad, to request a meeting to discuss the continuation of the sound wall on Ferguson Drive from Saybrook Ave. to Gerhart Ave. (See attached.)

On March 15, 2016, the City Administrator sent a letter to Ms. Valdez requesting a follow up meeting to discuss the continuation of the sound wall. (See attached.)

On August 16, 2016, at the request by Councilmember Argumedo, the City Council received a City staff report to consider the re-prioritization and ranking of the FY 2015/2016 and FY 2016/2017 unfunded projects, which includes the Ferguson Drive railroad sound wall project, and to convene a workshop with Union Pacific Railroad to discuss community impacts resulting from railroad operations. (See attached.)

On September 6, 2016, the City Administrator received a formal letter from Ms. Valdez in response to his communication identifying UPRR related issues the City Council wished to discuss, including the extension of the Ferguson Drive sound wall to cover all residential properties. The response from Ms. Valdez, on behalf of UPRR suggested that there may not be a need to hold a workshop. (See attached.) The letter was shared with Council via e-mail on September 6, 2016.

CIP FY 2015/2016 Unfunded Project: Ferguson Drive Railroad Sound Wall:

This project is in the City's unfunded category of CIP projects. Based on the ranking, the project was not allocated funding in FY 2015/2016 and/or the current CIP fiscal year (FY 2016/2017).

It is not recommended that the Council reprioritize the project for the current year since the Council has already approved the FY 2016/2017 CIP and staff has started to work on the approved and funded projects. The Council can reconsider the funding for the sound wall extension in the FY 2017/2018 process which will begin in April and May of 2017. Council has the option of allocating funds for study and design of the sound wall at the Mid-year CIP Budget discussions.

The project as determined in FY 2015/2016 is about 2,500 in length, 15 feet high, with a total approximate cost of \$1.2 million dollars. The estimated design cost would be about \$80,000. These costs can get significantly higher as any construction closer than 25 feet to rail road centerline would require expensive permits, long lead times and high-cost rail road flagging requirements. Any right of way acquisition can also add significant time and cost to the project. The project could take approximately four years to complete through design, right of way acquisition, bidding, and construction.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact related to the discussion of this request. There will be a fiscal impact related to the construction of the sound wall.

RELATIONSHIP TO THE 2016 STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN:

This item is related to the following 2016 Strategic Guiding Principle under Infrastructure and Facilities:

Develop and Implement a sustainable Capital Improvement Program to ensure the quality of the existing infrastructure and to support future plans for the City.

Respectfully submitted, Jorge Rifa, City Administrator Approved as to form: Eduardo Olivo, City Attorney