



CITY OF COMMERCE AGENDA REPORT

TO: Honorable City Council **Item No.** _____

FROM: Interim City Administrator

SUBJECT: Report on the Railroad Sound Wall Feasibility Study along Ferguson Drive

MEETING DATE: May 16, 2017

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file this report on the Railroad Sound Wall Feasibility Study along Ferguson Drive and/or provide Staff direction with respect to further action.

BACKGROUND:

This report titled *"Feasibility Study of Railroad Sound Wall south of Ferguson Drive in the City Limits"* developed by Transtech (see Attachment) assesses the feasibility, design options, constraints, and costs associated with a sound wall located on the north side of the Union Pacific Railroad (UP) south of Ferguson Drive within the City of Commerce. The south side (or opposite side) of the railroad was not considered in this report, as that land use is exclusively commercial or industrial.

Issues regarding noise and safety are paramount concerns to the residents who reside along Ferguson Drive. In June 2003, a runaway UP freight train derailed along Ferguson Drive that caused significant property damage and personal injuries. It is within this context that a sound wall is to be considered for the safety and well-being of the residential community along Ferguson Drive.

The attached report focuses on various options with cost analyses, such as the site built option, pre-cast concrete panels, and alternate materials, each of which have their advantages and disadvantages. The cost of each option is detailed within the report but only represents base costs. Additional costs related to project management, construction management, and contingencies in the range of 15% to 20% must also be factored in any final cost estimate. The study also delves into design and construction considerations, including permitting aspects with UP and other agencies, such as the City.

Any proposed sound wall will affect the adjoining residences that run parallel to Ferguson Drive. These residences have fences that are next to the UP right-of-way. Most existing residential fences include chain link, wood, and wrought iron fences; mostly overgrown with vegetation. Removal of existing fencing would not pose too much of a problem, except where adjacent buildings are built up to the property lines. There will be added clearing and grubbing adjacent to the construction and in the existing UP right-of-way.

These various options proposed within this study will serve as a guide to assist in determining the most appropriate alternatives that will best satisfy both cost restrictions and the needs of the community in developing this sound wall.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve staff recommendation
2. Disapprove staff recommendation
3. Provide further direction to staff

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact at this time. The City Council will provide staff direction on the priorities and needs in response to this assessment and recommended CIP's to be included with the Fiscal Year 2017/18 budget.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC GOALS:

This item relates to Council's 2016 Strategic Action Plan's:

Infrastructure and Facilities

- Guiding Principle 1 to "establish routine and industry best practice maintenance guidelines to monitor the efficiency and operability of current below and above grade infrastructure and facilities."
- Guiding Principle 4 to "develop and invest in infrastructure and beautification projects that support economic growth."

Recommended by: Maryam Babaki, Director of Public Works & Development Services

Prepared by: Seung Yang, Deputy Director of Engineering Services

Reviewed by: Vilko Domic, Finance Director

Approved as to form: Eduardo Olivo, City Attorney

Respectfully submitted: Matthew Rodríguez, Interim City Administrator

ATTACHMENT:

- *"Feasibility Study of Railroad Sound Wall south of Ferguson Drive in the City Limits"* developed by Transtech