



TO: Mayor Shaun Sipma
Members of the City Council

FROM: Lance Meyer, P.E., City Engineer

DATE: January 3, 2022

SUBJECT: RAILROAD QUIET ZONE 2021 STUDY (3308.1)

I. RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. Recommend council receive and file the report;
2. Staff requests direction whether to place the project in the upcoming Capital Improvement Plan

II. DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSONS

Lance Meyer, City Engineer	701-857-4100
Stephen Joersz, Traffic Engineer	701-857-4100

III. DESCRIPTION

A. Background

In 2011, the council accepted a Railroad Quiet Zone Study that laid the framework for establishing a quiet zone through Minot. In 2014, the City initiated its first quiet zone on the west side of Minot on the BNSF mainline. This quiet zone eliminated 85% of train horns through the majority of Minot. However, there are no quiet zones at any CP Rail crossings.

B. Proposed Project

Over the past year, staff and SRF have been reviewing the quiet zone options along the CP Rail corridor through Minot. Staff and SRF met with several potentially impacted property owners to understand their concerns and future plans. SRF has taken that input into consideration when planning for future improvements.

The proposed improvements will install safety improvements at 3rd St SE, Central Ave, and the Amtrak Depot crossing. The other crossings will remain as is today with no planned improvements. In the future if the need arises, other crossing could be treated with safety improvements in order for the City to maintain the required safety threshold.

C. Consultant Selection

SRF previously performed the quiet zone study work and has the qualifications and technical skill to perform the work in the most efficient way.

IV. IMPACT:

A. Strategic Impact:

Quiet zones are important safety improvements that can be installed in urbanized areas where busy rail corridors cross roadway traffic. The reduction in train horn noise is a quality of life benefit to residents and properties along railway corridors.

B. Service/Delivery Impact:

The study will provide the City with updated project costs, alternatives, and phasing analysis necessary for the council to make informed decisions about future quiet zone implementations.

C. Fiscal Impact:

At this time, a future construction project is not budgeted nor placed in the Capital Improvement Plan. If Council wishes to move forward with a project, staff needs direction as to when the project should be constructed.

The study estimates a project cost of approximately \$1 million to complete the quiet zone. It should be noted that these costs are 2021 improvement costs and are only schematic at this time. Until survey and preliminary engineering are completed, this cost estimate will be the basis of estimate. If placed into future CIP documents, costs will be updated as more information becomes available.

V. ALTERNATIVES

At this time, Council only needs to receive the report. If Council wishes to provide staff direction to place the project into the CIP, it can be done at this time.

VI. TIME CONSTRAINTS

Staff is starting the CIP work now for 2022 to 2026. If Council wants this project to proceed, direction should be given to staff to place the project in the CIP.

VII. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- A. Final Report
- B. Council Presentation