



CITY COUNCIL

Darryl Moore
Councilmember District 2

CONSENT CALENDAR
April 28, 2015

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Councilmember Darryl Moore
 Councilmember Linda Maio
 Subject: Apply for Alameda County Transportation Commission Funds to Implement Railroad Quiet Zones

RECOMMENDATION

Direct the City Manager to apply to the Alameda County Transportation Commission for funds from Measure BB in order to take the necessary steps towards planning and implementation of a railroad quiet zone for West Berkeley.

BACKGROUND

In 2008, Wilbur Smith and Associates completed a Quiet Zone Feasibility Study with final exhibits completed in Spring 2009. The plan included a variety of different options for each of the 7 at-grade crossings throughout the city to produce a number of different scenarios to improve the noise associated with the railroad, as well as preserving or improving safety at the crossings.

The West Berkeley Project Area Commission, which is advisory to the Berkeley Redevelopment Agency, endorsed the transfer of the project to the City for implementation in their final project recommendation on September 11, 2009:

The PAC supports the establishment of a Quiet Zone (QZ) in West Berkeley. We support grade separation at the Gilman grade crossing as a related but not dependent project and only support crossing closures if required to attain financial support of this Grade Separation, supporting closure only if and when separation is completed. We support 4-Quad gates or medians at appropriate streets. We support a 4 quad gate at Gilman until a grade separation is established, with gate relocation to a lower priority crossing at such time. We support the City obtaining Port of Oakland, State, and Federal funding in partnership with Union Pacific and Capitol Corridor and other rail partners. We support bringing planning of the West Berkeley QZ implementation to any multi-jurisdictional planning efforts including the UP corridor. We are looking for increased ped and bike safety improvements at rail crossings even if they exceed the QZ scope. We recommend the Agency refer the matter to appropriate City

Departments and Commissions to frame a Council Action and implementation strategy.

Due to the increase in rail traffic and the potential for large amounts of crude oil being shipped by rail to various west coast refineries, it is important to reconsider quiet zone options to maximize safety and quality of life for residents near the railroad tracks.

Alameda County Transportation Commission has monies available to implement railroad quiet zones.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Staff time to apply for ACTC grant

CONTACT PERSON

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Council District 2

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