

Economic Development Commission Meeting
March 11, 2014
Quiet Zone Update

1. The Oceanside quiet zone diagnostic meeting was performed on January 16, 2014
2. RailPros (City's consultant) appears close to reaching consensus with NCTD, Amtrak, Metrolink, BNSF, and CPUC regarding required quiet zone safety improvements. Once consensus is reached, staff estimates an additional 2-months will be required to finalize the diagnostic effort.
3. Staff has recommended that \$650k of TransNet funds be programmed into the CIP FY 2014-15 budget for design of "Mainline Railroad Crossing Safety Improvements". Staff is currently anticipating that this design process will take approximately 6-months; however, time to complete the design will be heavily dependent upon the time needed for NCTD/SANDAG review, processing, and approval.
4. Staff is pursuing additional funding contributions through our region's LOSSAN rail projects. This includes multiple requests and recommendations to SANDAG and Caltrans staff to explore the opportunity of creating a San Diego Regional Rail Crossing Management Program (CMP) which may be able to compete for large federal and state grants.
5. After plans (construction drawings), specifications, and estimates are finalized, staff intends to proceed with the process of bid, award, and construction. Construction of the railway safety improvements may require a City agreement with NCTD/SANDAG. In addition, portions or all of the actual improvements may need to be constructed by NCTD/SANDAG or their contractors because they are located within the railroad right-of-way. Therefore, City staff cannot currently approximate a timeframe to complete this phase of the project.
6. As part of the finishing steps, the City must finalize the establishment of a quiet zone with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). After establishment, the locomotive horns will not be required to be sounded. However, warning sounds from the at-grade crossing equipment (i.e. electronic bells) will still be required and audible.