

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council Members
Steve Parker, City Manager

From: Melissa Reynolds, P.E., CFM – Director of Engineering & Capital Projects

Through: Rick Cortes, Deputy City Manager

Subject: Railroad Quiet Zones Professional Services Agreement

Date: February 12, 2024

City staff began research on the potential for implementation of Railroad Quiet Zones in Seguin at the request of City Council and Management in 2022.

As was noted at the September 2022 meeting, FRA Train Horn Rule (49 CFR 222) requires an engineer to sound the horn under various circumstances including when a train is approaching and passing through a public highway-rail grade crossing. In 1994, Congress ordered the FRA to enact federal regulations requiring train horns to be sounded at all public highway-rail grade crossings. In 2005, the final rule on quiet zones and the removal of the requirement to sound a horn was adopted and placed in the Code of Federal Regulations. This final rule allows for an FRA exemption to the Train Horn Rule requiring trains to sound their horns at at-grade crossings.

The City of Seguin has 6 at-grade rail crossings within its City limits. Each poses unique challenges to the requirements to create a Quiet Zone. In December, a Request for Qualifications was released for Professional Services for development of Railroad Quiet Zones for the City of Seguin. On January 29, 2023, City staff have reviewed the statement(s) of qualifications and recommend awarding the contract to Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. for \$213,445 based on presented experience and qualifications. This project was budgeted for in this fiscal year's CIP budget.

Staff will be available to answer any questions at the February 20th, 2024 City Council meeting.