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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
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To: Municipal Services Committee
From: Eric Lom, City Traffic Engineer
Date: February 13, 2018
Re: Sole Source Purchase Request – Railroad Quiet Zone Channelized Delineators

Included in the 2018 budget are funds to implement a railroad quiet zone in the City. Part of this project includes installing “supplemental safety measures” (SSMs) at a number of the grade crossings as a way of compensating for the loss of the train horns. The locations and general configurations for the SSMs were previously approved by the Common Council.

In some cases, the SSMs will consist of raised concrete medians, which will be constructed by a City contractor. In other cases, the SSMs will consist of the installation of channelized delineators (CDs), which are plastic-type curbs with vertical posts that will be installed by DPW forces. This memo focuses on the procurement of the CDs.

Based on our research, there are three reputable manufacturers of CD systems that are approved by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for use in quiet zone applications. Of these three, our research indicates that only two of the systems perform satisfactorily in cold-weather climates. The remaining two systems (Davison Traffic Control Products (PEXCO) and Qwik Curb) were thoroughly evaluated by City and found to be acceptable, for certain applications.

Qwik Curb (\$~56/LF)

This is an extremely heavy duty product that stands taller and uses larger bollards, making it much more imposing to motorists and reducing the likelihood motorists will cross over it. We believe this system can stand up to traffic in our higher-traffic, longer-term applications, and we believe it justifies the higher cost.

PEXCO (~\$31/LF)

The “curb” portion of this product is not nearly as tall as the Qwik Curb, and the bollards are much smaller and less imposing, which will limit its ability to discourage crossing by motorists. Our plan is to test this product in a temporary, lower-traffic application (Lawrence Street).

Based on this, we request approval to purchase the Qwik Curb System for all permanent applications (at a price of approximately \$56/LF) and the PEXCO system for one temporary application (at a cost of approximately \$31/ LF).



Figure 1 - Qwik Curb



Figure 2 - PEXCO