



ITEM REPORT UTILITIES COMMISSION

Agenda Date: 6/8/2022

Agenda Section: Information Only

Department Origination: Public Works

Agenda Item: SEH Quiet Zone Assessment Monthly Update

No Action Required

Approval Required:

BACKGROUND

The City of Baxter has been working toward the goal of implementing a railroad quiet zone (no whistles) within the city for multiple years. The process takes close coordination with BNSF Railway Company. The next step is to perform what the industry calls a Quiet Zone Assessment.

In August, the city hired SEH to assist with this study. Tasks include data gathering, field assessments, and group site meetings with SEH, the City of Baxter, BNSF, Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), MnDOT, and County officials participating. In order for BNSF to participate, they required execution of a Preliminary Engineering Services Agreement. Said agreement was approved by the City Council on September 21, 2021.

A Quiet Zone Assessment report was prepared with input from city staff that summarizes the actions taken to date and the necessary next steps, including an associated cost opinion, to attain quiet zone designation on all railroad crossings in Baxter by 2024. The report is currently being reviewed by the City and is expected to be presented at the August Utilities Commission meeting.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

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COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED