



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR  
January 22, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Submitted by: Phil Harrington, Director, Public Works

Subject: Contract: TranSystems Corporation for Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Clearance for the Railroad Crossing Safety Improvement/Quiet Zone Project

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract and any amendments with TranSystems Corporation for Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Clearance for the Railroad Crossing Safety Improvement/Quiet Zone project, and any as-needed additional project-related services as directed by the City, for a total not-to-exceed contract amount of \$500,000, for the period February 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The project is funded by a grant from the Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC) using discretionary Alameda County Measure BB Sales Taxes. Funding will be recommended for appropriation through the second amendment to the appropriations ordinance in the Capital Project Grant Fund - Local (Fund 307) 307-54-622-662-0000-000-431-612310-PWTRCT1901.

Total contract not to exceed amount \$500,000.

This contract has been assigned CMS No. DA5CW.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In September 2018, the City released a Request for Proposals (RFP), Specification No. 19-11257-C, for Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Analysis for the Railroad Crossing Safety Improvement/Quiet Zone project. The consultant's scope in the RFP included the following tasks for the future upgrade of all seven at-grade railroad crossings in Berkeley (Gilman Street, Camelia Street, Cedar Street, Virginia Street, Hearst Avenue, Addison Street and Bancroft Way): kick-off meeting and final scope/schedule; document review, data collection, and field survey; stakeholder outreach and public engagement; traffic engineering studies; conceptual design; development of project plans and preliminary cost estimate to 35% design level; and environmental analysis, review, and clearance. These tasks are intended to build upon

the work of the City of Berkeley Railroad Quiet Zone Study final report, dated April 13, 2009.

Although the City received only one proposal in response to the RFP, City staff found that TranSystems Corporation's (TranSystems) proposal demonstrated their competency in all of the pre-established criteria: project understanding and work plan; qualifications, experience, and references; work samples; price proposal; and overall quality of the responses and conformance with RFP requirements for content. An interview with TranSystems reinforced City staff's evaluation of TranSystems as competent and well-qualified to perform the work of this project.

### BACKGROUND

The purpose of the Railroad Crossing Safety Improvement/Quiet Zone project is to explore the potential for implementation of a Quiet Zone on the Union Pacific Railroad corridor through the City of Berkeley. Quiet Zones are areas where locomotive engineers are not required to sound train warning horns as they approach at-grade crossings. Quiet Zone designations are authorized by the Federal Railroad Authority Administration the federal agency with oversight of the safety of the national rail system.

The local public authority may designate Quiet Zones when the safety measures at each grade crossing comply fully with one or more FRA "pre-approved" sets of measures (termed Supplemental Safety Measures, or SSMs) that have been determined to provide sufficient risk reduction. The SSMs must be sufficient to reduce the Quiet Zone risk index below the Nationwide Significant Risk Threshold, or below the Risk Index with Horns.

In 2018, the City was awarded a \$1.52 million grant by the ACTC. The purpose of the grant is to improve railroad crossing safety at each of the at-grade crossings in Berkeley in accordance with Railroad Quiet Zone standards established by the FRA. Improvements are anticipated to feature new gates for vehicles and bicyclists as well as sidewalk safety gates for pedestrians. The improvements may also include additional intersection treatments and traffic calming features to accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians crossing the at-grade crossings.

Of this grant, \$500,000 has been approved for public engagement, preliminary engineering to the 35% design stage, and environmental planning work; as per the grant requirements, this work must be completed by the end of the 2019 calendar year. The remainder of the grant, which covers preparation of final design documents, would be approved by the ACTC upon successful completion of the aforementioned initial tasks.

The work funded by the initial \$500,000 grant is anticipated to be the first phase of delivering the Railroad Crossing Safety Improvement/Quiet Zone project. With Council approval, staff anticipates applying for grant funding for the future construction phase previously estimated to be on the order of \$10 million.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

As part of the development of the 2009 Quiet Zone study, community members cited impacts such as sleep disruption and other related health issues, interruption of business meetings and phone calls, and decline in property value and the quality of life as rationale for quiet zone implementation. The execution of this contract will help ensure the successful completion of the Railroad Crossing Safety Improvement/Quiet Zone project. By instituting a Quiet Zone, which will improve the safety of railroad crossing gates and reduce noise, the project is expected to improve the quality of life for employees and residents near at-grade railroad crossings in Berkeley.

Also, pedestrian and bicycle crossing improvements would encourage a reduction in the use of single occupancy vehicles, which would help the City achieve the Berkeley Climate Action Plan greenhouse gas emission reduction targets of 33% below year 2000 levels by the year 2020, and 80% below year 2000 levels by 2050.

### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The proposal from TranSystems demonstrates that this team, including their proposed project manager, has extensive experience working with key railroad stakeholders and is well-qualified to provide the City with the needed public engagement, preliminary engineering, and environmental planning services for the Railroad Crossing Safety Improvement/Quiet Zone project. Furthermore, the TranSystems team is located in downtown Berkeley, within close proximity to City offices, which facilitates in-person meetings and enhanced coordination.

### ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

The City considered (a) re-issuing the RFP in an effort to solicit more responses, and (b) managing all activities with staff resources, but City staff determined that TranSystems is well-qualified to perform the work, and there would not be sufficient time to ensure successful compliance and timely project delivery if either of these alternative actions were implemented. Execution of this contract will enable the City to complete the Railroad Crossing Safety Improvement/Quiet Zone project on time and within budget.

### CONTACT PERSON

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Ken Jung, Associate Civil Engineer, Public Works, (510) 981-7028  
Beth Thomas, Principal Planner, Public Works, (510) 981-7068

### Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

CONTRACT: TRANSYSTEMS CORPORATION FOR PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE FOR THE RAILROAD CROSSING SAFETY IMPROVEMENT/QUIET ZONE PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department has determined that consultant assistance is needed for Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Clearance for the Railroad Crossing Safety Improvement/Quiet Zone project (Project); and

WHEREAS, in September 2018, the City of Berkeley released a Request for Proposal, Specification No. 19-11257-C, for the work of this Project, received one valid proposal by the due date of October 16, 2018, and reviewed it according to the RFP's scoring criteria; and

WHEREAS, after a thorough review and evaluation of the proposal, TranSystems Corporation was found to possess the requisite qualifications and experience and was deemed competent to perform the work of this Project; and

WHEREAS, the Project is an extension of the City of Berkeley's Railroad Quiet Zone Study that was approved by City Council in 2009; and

WHEREAS, \$500,000 of funding will be recommended for appropriation through the second amendment to the appropriations ordinance in the Capital Project Grant Fund – Local (Fund 307), and the contract has been entered in the contract management database with CMS No. DA5CW.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is authorized to execute a contract and any amendments with TranSystems Corporation for Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Clearance for the Railroad Crossing Safety Improvement/Quiet Zone project, and any as-needed project-related services as directed by the City, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$500,000, for the period from February 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019. A record signature copy of said contract and any amendments is to be on file in the City Clerk Department.