



# Agenda Report

September 19, 2011

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council  
**FROM:** Department of Public Works  
**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF SOUNDWALL LOCATION AND CONSENT TO PROCEED WITH DESIGN OF SOUNDWALL ON I-210, FEDERAL-AID PROJECT NO. HPLU-5064(058)**

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council approve the location of a soundwall adjacent to Interstate 210 along Pasadena Avenue north of Orange Grove Boulevard, and consent to proceed with the design of said soundwall on I-210, Federal-Aid Project No. HPLU-5064(058).

## **BACKGROUND:**

The City of Pasadena has obtained funding via a federal grant (SAFETEA-LU) in the amount of \$540,000 with a local match of \$135,000 for the preliminary engineering of soundwall along the I-210 freeway in Northwest Pasadena. The City formally entered into an agreement with the State of California to administer this project when a Program Supplement was approved by Council on October 25, 2010. An additional \$900,000 in federal funding has been committed for construction of this project, with a local match of \$225,000. Those funds will be accepted at a later date via a separate Program Supplement to initiate the construction phase of this project.

Parsons Engineering, the City's consultant, collected noise measurements throughout the project area and drafted a Noise Study Report outlining potential locations (shown on Attachment "A") that meet Caltrans feasibility criteria and the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (MTA) reasonableness criteria for soundwall construction. The Noise Study Report identified only one soundwall option that will not exceed the City's construction budget: an approximate 705 foot length of ten-foot height wall along the east side of Pasadena Avenue north of Orange Grove Boulevard. A community meeting was conducted on November 18, 2010 to present the results of the study.

In response to feedback received from participants at the community meeting, Parsons performed additional studies to determine if additional soundwalls could be constructed within the construction budget. Parsons investigated breaking the proposed systems of soundwalls into smaller pieces, but the wall segments would not meet Caltrans' or MTA's criteria for soundwall construction. In addition, there are no Caltrans-approved alternate materials that would reduce the budget, and the SAFETEA-LU funds cannot be used for any sound-proofing or acoustic treatments on individual homes.

**COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:**

This project is consistent with the City Council goal to support and promote the quality of life of the City and the local economy. This project is also consistent with one of the objectives of the General Plan's Noise Element, which is to protect residential areas from freeway-generated noise by constructing sound-attenuating walls to serve as a noise barrier between the freeway and the residential areas abutting certain segments of the freeway. A finding of compliance with the General Plan was previously made and is shown on page 2.14 of the FY 2011-2015 Capital Improvement Program.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:**

On January 12, 2009, the City Council approved the underlying contract with Parsons Engineering, and therein required that the appropriate environmental document be completed when enough information regarding the engineering, design and proposed locations of the walls was known to allow meaningful environmental review. The action proposed herein does not change that requirement.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The cost of this action is estimated to be \$675,000. Funding will be addressed by the utilization of existing budgeted appropriations in the *Route 210 Freeway Soundwalls* (Budget Account 73705) CIP project. Program Supplement Agreement 084-N to Administer Agency State Agreement No. 07-5064R, approved by Council on October 25, 2010, enables the City to obtain Federal reimbursement of eligible costs. The reimbursement will be up to \$540,000 for preliminary engineering cost, upon completion of the environmental submittals and design. The required \$135,000 of matching funds in the form of Commercial Development Fees, is available in Capital Improvement Program project 73705 – Route 210 Freeway Soundwalls.

SAFETEA-LU	\$ 540,000
Commercial Development Fees	\$ 135,000
<b>Total Sources</b>	<b>\$ 675,000</b>

Respectfully submitted,

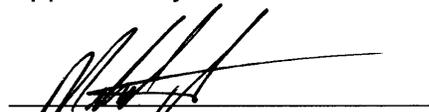


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Approved by:

  
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ATTACHMENT "A"  
SOUND WALLS ALONG I-210