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City Manager's Office

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Steven L. Schainker, City Manager

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Steve'.

DATE: December 12, 2008

SUBJECT: Council Follow-up

The City Council has requested staff to provide updates on two issues: 1) Quiet Zone and 2) Parking Ramp Analysis. Our Traffic Engineer, Damion Pregitzer, who is managing both of these projects has provided me with the following updates.

Quiet Zone:

The Traffic Engineer spoke with our consultant, SRF, on December 5, 2008 regarding the status of this project. They indicated that by the end of December we will be ready to file our "Notice of Intent" (NOI) with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) indicating our readiness to apply for a Quiet Zone along our East-West rail line through Ames. This is reflective of the fact that our safety rating for Ames currently meets the thresholds necessary to begin the process. This status is due to the recent installation of the Four Quadrant Gates at the Duff Avenue crossing. In January/February we will be ready to file our application (60 days maximum after issuing the NOI). It is anticipated to take approximately 6 to 8 months to gain FRA approval. At which point we will return to Council with a draft ordinance officially establishing the Quiet Zone in Ames.

In terms of the north/south routes, we continue to make railroad crossing improvements with financial assistance from the Union Pacific Railroad.

Parking Ramp Analysis:

Damion, along with Doug Houghton and Steve Osguthorpe, have met to outline the contents of the Request For Proposal. Our plan is to have the RFP in final draft form, ready to be mailed, by the end of this week. It is our intent to give the consultants until after Christmas/New Year's to reply.

If you have any questions about this update, please give me a call.

C: Diane Voss, City Clerk

Bob Kindred, Assistant City Manager