



**TOWN OF NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
500 Dedham Avenue, Needham, MA 02492
Telephone (781)455-7550 Fax (781)449-9023**

To: Members of the Finance Committee
Re: Quiet Zone Submission for May 2023 Annual Town Meeting
From: Carys Lustig, Director of Public Works
Date: April 19, 2023
CC: Kate Fitzpatrick, Town Manager
Dave Davison, Assist. Town Manager/Finance Director
Cecilia Simchak, Director of Finance/Administration for Public Services
Thomas Ryder, Town Engineer
Members of the Select Board

This memo is in response to questions put to the proponents on the DPW and Town Manager's presentation for Article 28: Appropriate for Quiet Zone. The DPW followed up with Beta Inc who conducted the initial feasibility studies in 2015 and updated it in 2017. Additionally, we have consulted with the City of Chelsea that has been undergoing quiet zone work to restore their quiet zone status and is presently still sourcing funding for construction after putting the project out to bid.

Breakdown of Cost for Design:

Details	Cost
<i>Permitting</i>	
FRA permitting/coordination	\$30,000
Rail Signal Design/Keolis coordination	\$90,000
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$120,000</i>
<i>Design Work</i>	
Survey	\$25,000
Civil Design (Grading, Rail Coordination, Sidewalks, Curbing Adjustment, Etc.)	\$100,000
Signal Coordination (approach signals)	\$35,000
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$160,000</i>
<i>Incidental Work</i>	
Meetings	\$20,000
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$20,000</i>
 Total For Design and Permitting per Crossing	 \$300,000

Ratio of Design Costs to Construction Costs:

DPW confirmed that the construction estimated per zone is approximately \$800,000 (except for GPA due to the width and pre-signal). That would make the design approximately 1/3 the cost of the construction. In conferring with Beta Inc, and internally, it was clear that the actual costs for the design are closer to \$160,000 (which is 20%) and the additional costs quoted are for permitting required by the Federal Rail Administration, KEOLIS and the MBTA. As the MBTA permits quiet zones, but does not endorse them, the designers felt it was prudent to build in sufficient time and resources to advocate for this project on behalf of the Town and fulfill any additional requests that may arise from the permitting process. It is possible that the costs for permitting may be less than estimated and the estimate is a not to exceed limit, not a lump sum.

Estimated Total Cost for Quiet Zone Project:

In considering funding this project it was clear that the total cost for the project is an important factor. That is why DPW has not moved forward on the Great Plain Ave work until after Town Meeting takes a vote on this issue.

Currently, we feel that the chart below best summarizes the total cost as is currently estimated for the entire quiet zone project:

Costs	Item	Unit	Total
Design 4 Crossings	\$300,000	4	\$1,200,000
Construction 4 Crossings	\$800,000	4	\$3,200,000
GPA Design	\$310,000	1	\$310,000
GPA Construction	\$1,150,000	1	\$1,150,000
Design Golf Course Crossing	\$265,000	1	\$265,000
Construction Golf Course Crossing	\$800,000	1	\$800,000
Total			\$6,925,000

Funding Source	
ATM 2023 Request Article 28	\$1,340,000.00
FY 25 CIP Funding Request	\$2,775,000.00
Earmark from State	\$170,000
Anticipated Chapter 90	\$1,130,000
Total	\$5,415,000.00

Conclusions for May 2023 Submission

At this time the request for the 2023 Annual Town Meeting should be sufficient to cover the cost of at least the 4 Town Owned Crossings and may be sufficient to cover some or part of the golf course crossing if that is deemed necessary and appropriate.

The future cost of construction which is anticipated in the Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2025 may need to be increased. As the Town gets further into design construction costs will be amended and the DPW will have a better understanding of costs for construction prior to submitting next year’s CIP.