

Glendale continues to track plan for railroad crossings

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GLENDALÉ - The village is sounding its horn on reducing the noise at three railroad crossings, as it continues to work to establish a "quiet zone."

The village's Railroad Safety and Quiet Zone Committee presented an update during the village's City Council meeting on Monday, Nov. 5.

Ralph Hoop, chairman of the committee, explained that the group has continued discussions with state and federal commissions to establish the "quiet zone."

New gates would be installed, with enhanced safety features. There are several options, Hoop said, with varying costs.

The most expensive option would be installation of four quadrant gates with constant warning time circuitry at Sharon Road.

It would include a median barrier with constant warning time circuitry at Marion Road in Woodlawn, and put constant warning time circuitry at existing gates at Albion Avenue and Oak Road.

The tentative cost to Glendale would be \$700,000 and Woodlawn would possibly pay \$115,000, Hoop said.

He explained that annual maintenance could run up to \$20,000, with an additional \$25,000 for preliminary engineering.

The state and railroads don't have to provide inspections or equipment, he said. That's up to the communities.

If this option is selected, the train horns won't sound, unless there's an emergency.

Hoop pointed out a few concerns, as well.

The village would have to confirm that four-quad gates at Sharon Road would be possible.

Having no train horn at the Albion and Oak intersections raised concerns, as well.

Woodlawn would also have to agree to work with Glendale if this option were exercised, Hoop said.

The committee offered three options to pay for the "quiet zone."

"The only things we can see," Hoop said, "are a local tax revenue, impact fees and voluntary contributions."

Next up, he said, is an engineering study of Sharon Road.



The Village of Glendale is working to make the intersections of Greenville Avenue and Sharon Road, Albion Avenue and Oak Road into Quiet Zones.

What's a quiet zone?

A "quiet zone" is corridor of railroad crossings where train horns aren't sounded when trains approach highway-rail grade crossings. The train horns can be silenced only when other safety measures are put in place.