

Glendale Railroad Safety & Quiet Zone Committee

A Quiet Zone is a corridor of railroad crossings in which train horns are not routinely sounded by trains approaching highway-rail grade crossings.

Background

- The 2005 Federal Railroad Administration Final Rule establishes national standards for Quiet Zones.
- To prevent an increase in accidents because of trains not sounding horns, Quiet Zones require Supplemental Safety Measures (SSMs) aimed at preventing impatient drivers from driving around lowered crossing gates.

Major Conclusions

- Funding from State or Federal sources is not available unless a grade crossing is closed.
- Low cost safety measures (such as median dividers) to qualify for a Quiet Zone are not possible for Glendale.

Recent Progress

- A Town Hall Meeting was conducted on November 12, 2007 to inform Glendale residents about Quiet Zone options and to provide an opportunity for residents to ask questions.
- A Quiet Zone questionnaire was distributed after the Town Hall meeting and roughly 50 residents responded.

	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Middle</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>
Respondents	26	3	18
Horn Annoyance	9.2	5.0	1.8
QZ importance	9.0	6.0	2.2
(10 is highest)			
Albion Closing Impact			
(10 is highest)	3.6	3.7	7.9
QZ will increase home value	88%	67%	0%
Funding Support			
Voluntary Contrib.	85%	33%	79%
Grants	100%	100%	73%
Impact Fees	100%	67%	33%
Property Tax	58%	33%	13%

Recommendations

- The Ad Hoc Railroad Safety and Quiet Zone Committee recommends that Glendale Village Council proceed with steps necessary to implement a Federal Railroad Administration Quiet Zone covering the Sharon Road, Albion Avenue and Oak Road vehicle crossings.
- The QZ Committee recommends that the Albion crossing be left open to avoid traffic flow inconvenience, particularly for residents on the East Side of the tracks.
- Although voluntary contributions from Glendale residents and possibly a grant from the Procter Fund may fund a portion of the QZ cost, most funding will likely be needed from Village of Glendale resources.