

From: Sonntag, Steve
Sent: Tuesday, May 04, 2010 8:49 AM
To: Tolley, Sabrina
Cc: Dryer, David; Langer, Scott
Subject: RE: Ped Bike

The Railroad is required by Federal Rule to sound their horn at all at-grade crossings, unless there is an established quiet zone in place. Establishing a quiet zone does not mean trains are not allowed to sound their horns, Federal Law requires the railroad to sound the horn, by the discretion of the locomotive engineer, if they believe there is an imminent danger in the area. The law requires the locomotive engineer to sound the horn to provide a warning to animals, vehicles, pedestrians, trespasser, railroad crews or any utility crews, to prevent imminent injury, death or property damage to the railroad. The railroad will also sound the horn if the at-grade crossings are malfunctioning or appear to be damaged.

The FRA regulations have very specific requirements on how to create a quiet zone, which include the following:

- A Quiet Zone must be at least 1/2 mile long.
- All Crossings in the proposed Quiet Zone must have at a minimum:
 - Flashing Signals and Gates
 - Constant Warning Time(electronics which calculated the speed of the train and lower the gates at the crossing based on the speed.)
 - Power out Indicators(a light at the crossing which notifies the RR the crossing electronics are working properly)

The cost to make the required improvements at each crossing without gates range from \$200,000-\$300,000 depending on the necessary improvements needed.

If we intend to make a quiet zone, all cost associated with the necessary improvements are the City's responsibility.

It is my understanding that complaints regarding horns blowing in a quiet zone have be forwarded to Steve Brist with the City Attorney's office.

I have also attached the link to the City WEB site for further quiet zone information.

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/engineering/quietZone.cfm>

Let me know if you need anything else.

Steve