

Train Noise – Quiet Zone

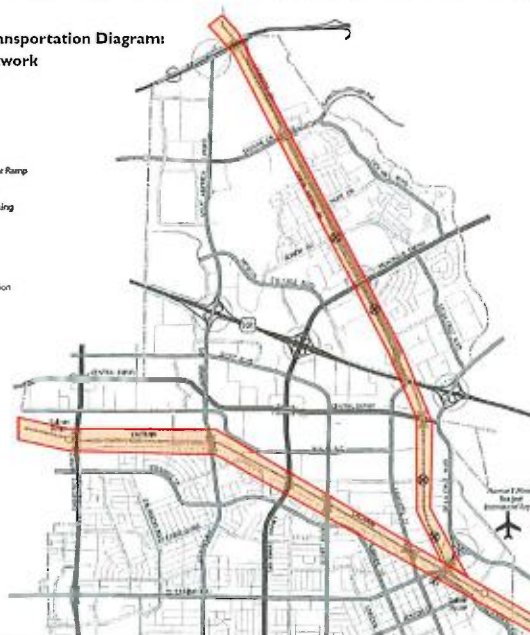
- Hear multiple train horns at 1:30 AM at 1 mile away
- Train horns are between 96 and 110 dB at 100 feet
- Locomotive horns are required to sound for 15-20 seconds before entering all public grade crossings, but not more than one-quarter mile in advance.
- San Jose working on Quiet Zone for Warm Springs (Final Report July 2020)
- Milpitas also working on a Quiet Zone

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4 Santa Clara At-Grade Crossings

Figure 5.7-1
Mobility & Transportation Diagram:
Roadway Network

- Freeway
- Expressway
- Arterial
- Collector
- Local Street
- Freeway Connector Ramp
- Grade Separation
- At-grade Rail Crossing
- Interchange
- Rail Light Rail
- Rail Light Rail Station
- City Limits



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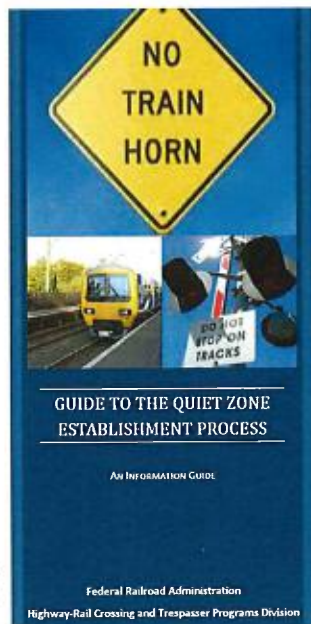
Quiet Zone requirements

- Quiet Zones must be at least $\frac{1}{2}$ mile long
- Closest at-grade crossing at Reed is 3024 feet = 0.57 miles



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Quiet Zone requirements



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Quiet Zone requirements

- Quiet zone may be established by "Public Authority Designation" = City of Santa Clara if requirements are met
- Would be very easy since no at-grade crossings within ½ mile either side of Santa Clara Station
- For any at-grade crossings, safety measures need to be implemented within quiet zone
- Can implement a Partial Quiet Zone, restricting hours
- Can use Wayside Horns instead of Train Horns
- Requires Consultants \$300K + costs of safety measures at crossings

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Quiet Zone requirements

- "A quiet zone is a section of a rail line at least one-half mile in length that contains one or more consecutive public highway-rail grade crossings at which locomotive horns are not routinely sounded when trains are approaching the crossings. The prohibited use of train horns at quiet zones only applies to trains when approaching and entering crossings and does not include train horn use within passenger stations or rail yards."

Guide to the Quiet Zone Establishment Process

The Quiet Zone Establishment Process

Under the Train Horn Rule, only public authorities are permitted to establish quiet zones. Citizens who wish to have a quiet zone in their neighborhood should contact their local government to pursue the establishment of a quiet zone. The following is a typical example of the steps taken to establish a quiet zone:

1. **Determine** which crossings will be included in the quiet zone. All public highway-rail crossings in the quiet zone must have, at a minimum, an automatic warning system consisting of flashing lights and gates. The warning systems must be equipped with constant warning time devices (except in rare circumstances) and power out indicators. The length of the quiet zone must be at least one-half mile in length.

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San Jose gets State Funding

Senate Bill 129, authored by state Sen. Nancy Skinner of Berkeley, gives \$8 million in one-time funding to partially pay for rail crossing improvements along the Warm Springs Corridor running through Japantown along Seventh, Taylor, Jackson and Hedding Streets in San Jose. The bill will qualify that part of the city as a "quiet zone," a section of track where trains are prohibited from sounding their horns under certain circumstances, so long as the areas meet federal safety standards.

San Jose Assemblymember Ash Kalra, who represents portions of downtown San Jose including Japantown, celebrated the bill's passing, saying that the city has dealt with train noise for too long, often at midnight, 2 a.m. and 4 a.m.

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San Jose Council Approves Quiet Zone



COUNCIL AGENDA: 10/26/21
FILE: 21-2256
ITEM: 2.15

CITY COUNCIL ACTION REQUEST

Department(s): Transportation	CEQA: Categorically Exempt, File No. ER20-170, CEQA Guideline Section 15301(c) Existing Facilities	Coordination: CAO, PBCE, City Manager's Budget Office	Dept. Approval: /s/ John Ristow
Council District(s): 3			CMO Approval: 10/14/2021

SUBJECT: WARM SPRINGS QUIET ZONE

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to establish a quiet zone within the City of San José portion of the Warm Springs Subdivision railroad corridor, from N. Montgomery St to Homing St.

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