

## **CITY OF SEGUIN**

**To:** City Council  
**From:** Melissa Reynolds, Director of Engineering & Capital Projects  
**Date:** October 15, 2024  
**Subject:** Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding future improvements at the Huber Road railroad crossing.



It's real.

### **Historical Background**

The FRA Train Horn Rule (49 CFR 222) requires an engineer to sound the horn under various circumstances including when a train is approaching and passing through a public highway-rail grade crossing. In 1994, Congress ordered the FRA to enact federal regulations requiring train horns to be sounded at all public highway-rail grade crossings. In 2005, the final rule on quiet zones and the removal of the requirement to sound a horn was adopted and placed in the Code of Federal Regulations. This final rule allows for an FRA exemption to the Train Horn Rule requiring trains to sound their horns at at-grade crossings.

In September of 2022 staff presented on the potential for implementation of Railroad Quiet Zones in Seguin. The City of Seguin has 6 at-grade rail crossings within its City limits. Each poses unique challenges to the requirements to create a Quiet Zone. Staff will presented the requirements and outlined a potential path forward to proceed with a project and begin the implementation process for Railroad Quiet Zones.

On February 20, 2024, Council authorized a professional service agreement with Kimley-Horn and Associates to perform the necessary evaluation, design, and related functions required for development of plans and specifications for establishing a Quiet Zone per Federal Railroad Administration guidelines.

In August 2024, staff and our consultants met with representatives from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR), and TxDOT to conduct a Diagnostic Review Team (DRT) Meeting in the field at each prospective crossing and discussed the unique needs and challenges. Based on the preliminary plans and layouts provided given the comments received at the DRT, options for the Huber Crossing require discussion and direction from Council.

Additionally, various TxDOT improvements and developments in the area are triggering traffic improvements and/or altering traffic patterns. All coincide with the unique horizontal and vertical alignment or Huber creating a need to discuss alternative.

### **Action Requested**

Discussion and direction to staff on the intended traffic improvement needs and design for the Huber Road Railroad Crossing.

**Procurement Methodology & Funding Source**

Funding for the Railroad Quiet Zone project has been secured with the 2023-24 Fiscal Year CIP Budget through bonds.

**Staff Recommendation**

n/a.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Presentation