

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council Members
Steve Parker, City Manager

From: Melissa Reynolds, P.E., MPA, CFM, City Engineer

Through: Rick Cortes, Deputy City Manager

Subject: Presentation on implementation and development of Railroad Quiet Zones

Date: September 20, 2022

At the direction of City Management and City Council, staff has prepared a presentation regarding the potential for implementation of Railroad Quiet Zones in Seguin.

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.

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 present the requirements and outline a path forward should Council provide direction to proceed with a project to begin the implementation process for Railroad Quiet Zones.