

STATE ACCESS PED CROSSING WORKSHOP

Hamilton Community Center

August 24, 2016



THE CITY OF
NOVATO
CALIFORNIA

PURPOSE OF MEETING

Keys for Tonight's Meeting:

- ❑ Update on latest **Quiet Zone** information
- ❑ Discuss State Access Rd **Pedestrian Crossing**
- ❑ Review **back-up options**
- ❑ Get **feedback** from neighbors
 - ***“Dot Pulse Check”***
- ❑ Identify **community** preferences
- ❑ Discuss **next steps**
 - ***Online Survey***
 - ***Council Meeting***

TONIGHT'S WORKSHOP

Agenda:

1. Welcome / Introductions
2. What is a Quiet Zone?
3. Status of Novato's Quiet Zones
4. State Access Pedestrian Crossing
5. Back-Up Options
6. Questions & Answers
7. Feedback / Pulse Check
8. Next Steps – *Moving Forward*
9. Adjourn



WHAT IS A QUIET ZONE?




Background Information on Quiet Zone Regulations

- **Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)**
 - *Safety*
 - *Risk Calculation*
 - *NOI, NOE, and.....*
- **California Public Utilities Commission (CAPUC)**
- **SMART – installed Quiet Zone ready improvements**
- **City of Novato**
 - *Timeline*
 - *Process*

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUIET ZONES IN NOVATO

ESTABLISHING A QUIET ZONE

Process To Establish A Quiet Zone

- Step 1:** Determine limits of quiet zone – which crossings? 
- Step 2:** Diagnostic Review by FRA / CPUC for Private & Pedestrian crossings
Use FRA Risk Calculator to assess if zone qualifies 
- Step 3:** Issue **Notice of Intent** (60 day comment period)
Railroads notified (SMART, NCRA, etc.) 
Private crossing owners
FRA & CPUC
- Step 4:** FRA / CPUC **Final Field Review**
Modify SSMs at public crossings if required
Submit updated National Grade Crossing Inventory Form
- Step 5:** Issue **Notice of Quiet Zone Establishment** to FRA and others (cease blowing horns within 21 days)

STATUS: QUIET ZONE NO. 1



QUIET ZONE 1 CROSSINGS

- RUSH CREEK PL.
- GOLDEN GATE PL.
- OLIVE AVE.
- GRANT AVE.
- (DT STATION)
- FRANKLIN PED. CROSSING
- HANNA RANCH RD.
- IGNACIO PED. CROSSING
- ROBLAR DRIVE
- HAMILTON PARKWAY



STATUS: QUIET ZONE NO. 2



QUIET ZONE 2 CROSSINGS

RENAISSANCE AVE.

GRANDVIEW AVE.



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STATUS OF QUIET ZONES

Current Status

- **City Council Decided to Implement QZ's in 2015**
 - *Establish QZs after testing phase, prior to regular service*
- **“Notice of Intent” for Quiet Zone No. 1**
 - *Submitted on June 5, 2016*
 - *60-day comment period ended August 5th*
- **Working with U.S. Congressman Huffman/SMART/FRA**
 - *One Quiet Zone, or modified requirements*
- **November: “Notice of Establishment”**
 - *City submits request*
 - *FRA confirms crossings are ready*
 - *Horns silenced in **21-days***
- **SMART: Service proposed to start December 2016**
 - *Once SMART completes system testing*

STATE ACCESS ROAD PEDESTRIAN CROSSING



“Before” Condition
View from State Access Rd



“Current” Condition
View from Hamilton Pkwy

STATE ACCESS ROAD PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

“Current” View towards Houses
View from Pedestrian Crossing



STATE ACCESS ROAD PEDESTRIAN CROSSING



BACK-UP OPTIONS

State Access Rd Pedestrian Crossing

- ❖ City's goal is to modify current Quiet Zone to allow Pedestrian Crossing to be in the proposed Quiet Zone #1

Back-Up Options :

1. Retain X-ing, install "Wayside Horn"

- *Pedestrian crossing remains*
- *Still will hear a horn*



2. Retain X-ing, No Quiet Zone at Hamilton Ped Xing

- *Train horns sound*
- *Pedestrian crossing remains*

3. Remove the Ped Crossing

- *Longer route to school/library/Bay Trail*
- *No crossing bells at gates*
- *No horn*

OPTION 1: RETAIN XING, WAYSIDE HORN SYSTEM



Please click on photo above to view video.

SOUND CONTOURS – TRAIN HORN

From Iowa Department of Transportation Study, 1998

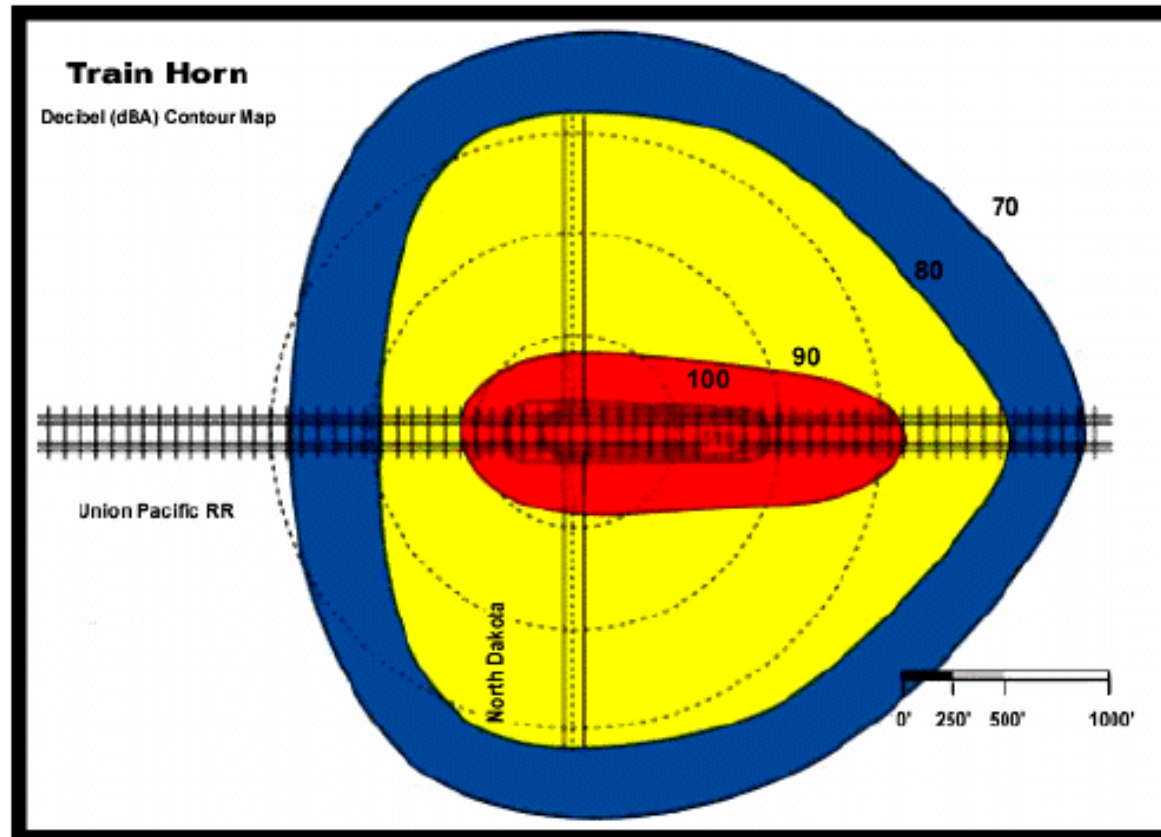


Figure 1. Sound contours at crossing with locomotive horn (5).

SOUND CONTOURS – WAYSIDE HORNS

From Iowa Department of Transportation Study, 1998

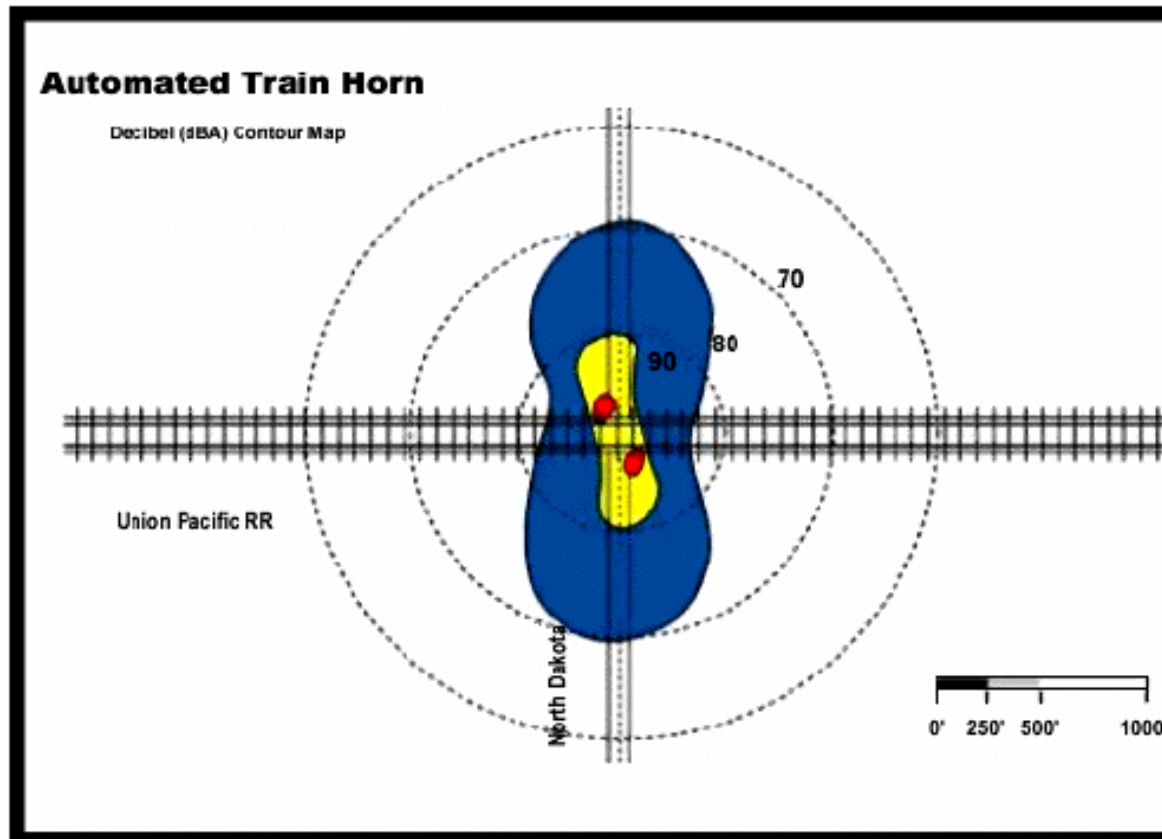


Figure 2. Sound contours at crossing with wayside horn (5).

OPTION 2: RETAIN X-ING, NO QUIET ZONE

From this morning....



Please click on photo above to view video.

OPTION 3: REMOVE THE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING



OPTION 3: REMOVE THE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING



OPTION SUMMARY

Decision Matrix

BACK-UP OPTION	IMPACT				
	TRAIN HORN NOISE	REDUCED NOISE	PED & BIKE IMPACTS	ADDITIONAL COST	ACCOMPLISH BEFORE REG. SERVICE BEGINS?
1. RETAIN X-ING, INSTALL WAYSIDE HORNS	NO	YES	NO	\$\$\$	NO(?)
2. RETAIN X-ING, NO QUIET ZONE	YES	NO	NO	NONE	YES
3. REMOVE CROSSING	NO	YES	YES	\$	YES

FEEDBACK / PULSE CHECK

Your Time to Express Thoughts

We want to know:

If we have to, what Back-Up option do you support?

- 1. Retain crossing, install a wayside horn, no train horn*
- 2. Retain crossing, no Quiet Zone, train horn will sound*
- 3. Remove the Pedestrian Crossing*



NEXT STEPS - MOVING FORWARD

What to Expect

- ❖ **Continued effort** to extend Quiet Zone #1
- ❖ **Online survey for Hamilton Community**
 - *City will mail postcard, within 1000-feet*
- ❖ Bring topic back to **City Council – public input**
 - *(+/- Sept. 30th)*
- ❖ Continued **commitment to Quiet Zones**
- ❖ **Keep community informed:**

novato.org/smart

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS FROM STAFF

Residents

Questions?



THANK YOU!!!



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