



Administration Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BURLINGTON – The information below is the latest update as it relates to the reestablishment of the quiet zone in the City of Burlington.

- The City has submitted an updated quiet zone application to the Federal Railroad Administration. The application calls for the installation of medians at the Milwaukee Avenue and Roberts Street railroad crossings.
- Based upon our analysis, these improvements coupled with the improvements already made to Jefferson Street and Adams Street will reduce our risk threshold below the federally required level for the reestablishment of the quiet zone.
- The construction of the medians will begin next week, the week of August 5.
- Once completed, the City must apply for acceptance of the improvements by the Federal Railway Administration. The approval for the quiet zone could take up to three months.
- Despite the City doing everything within its power to comply with federal regulations, the possibility exists that the FRA could deny our application, based upon factors which are unknown at this time. Additionally, they could require additional information before reaching a decision. This type of activity will delay the reinstatement of the quiet zone further.

Below is a description of when and how the trains are required to sound their horns:

The rule is engineers must begin to sound train horns at least 15 seconds and no more than 20 seconds in advance of all public grade crossings. Train horns must be sounded in a standardized pattern of 2 long, 1 short and 1 long blasts. The pattern must be repeated or prolonged until the lead locomotive or lead cab occupies the rail crossing. The rule does not stipulate the duration of long and short blasts.

Since the City's multiple crossings are located in close proximity, and the horn sounds for each crossing, it may seem like the horn is sounding in excess of the requirements.

Please be advised that federal law dictates these requirements and the City cannot enact local legislation to prevent the horns from sounding. Additionally, the State of Wisconsin cannot enact state legislation that would stop the horns from sounding.

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