



Just Imagine.

Glendale with No Train Horns

Several times in the past, groups have studied implementing a Quiet Zone in Glendale, but found it unfeasible.

Now that rail traffic through the Village is projected to increase dramatically, there is renewed interest in silencing train horns at crossings. Here's why:

Train Frequency

On average, 64 trains come through the Village each day, or one every 22.5 minutes. The OKI Regional Transportation Plan projects train traffic through Glendale will grow 38% by 2040.

Noise Pollution

Each train is required to blow the horn four times. This is a minimum of 768 horn blasts a day or 280,320 times a year. Sound level measurements taken along Greenville ranged from 99.9 to 117.8 decibels. Studies show hearing is impacted by sustained sound above 75 decibels.

Health Effects

Train horns are detrimental to overall health. They interrupt sleep, which provokes stress responses. Children's learning, reading and school performance are affected. Horns can also contribute to noise-induced hearing loss.

Property Values

Studies show residential property exposed to 65 decibels or more of railroad noise experience up to an 18% decrease in value.

FAQs

If we were unable to create a Quiet Zone in the past, how are things different now? First, community support is stronger because there are more trains and more horns. Second, all parties involved are supportive of the concept this time. That's because the most viable Quiet Zone model would include closing the Albion crossing. Out of 5,700 crossings in Ohio, Albion is ranked as the 90th most hazardous.

Who's going to pay for a Quiet Zone?

Negotiations are ongoing between CSX and the Ohio Rail Commission to assist in funding the improvements that are needed to qualify for a quiet zone. The majority of the costs would be shared by CSX and the State of Ohio – with the Village of Glendale also contributing.

How will the crossings change in a Quiet Zone?

The existing single arm gates at each crossing would be replaced by four-quadrant boom barrier gates that extend across the entire grade crossing. In addition, sensors would be installed to detect vehicles stopped on the tracks. With these changes, trains would no longer be required to sound the horns.

Won't the train conductors continue to blow the horns anyway?

For starters, it would be a violation of Federal Railroad regulations. There are 701 Quiet Zones in the US, and in the latest year there were only nine violations across the country.

What happens next? The proposal from the Ohio Rail Development Commission will be reviewed by Glendale Village Council in early Fall 2016.

Where do I go for more information? The findings from the committee's studies on train volumes, noise, health effects and property values can be found under "Quiet Zone" on the Village of Glendale website at www.glendaleohio.org.

Contact the committee by email at GlendaleQuietZone@gmail.com.