



VILLAGE of GLENDALE

GLENDALE, OHIO 45246

December 30, 2016

Dear Neighbor,

The 2016 Special Committee for a Glendale Quiet Zone prepared this mailing to make sure you have the latest information on one of the most significant projects our Village has ever undertaken. When there is new information, you can be sure we will send you additional "Community Updates."

At the same time, we want to hear from you.

If you have questions we haven't addressed in these updates, please let us know. You can reach us through email at glendalequietzone@gmail.com, or on our new Facebook page "**Glendale Ohio Quiet Zone**."

Of course, as we move through the legislative process in the coming months, there will also be plenty of opportunity for you to voice your opinions at public hearings.

You can expect to receive a short survey from us in the next couple of weeks. It's designed to let all Glendale residents make their feelings known on the Quiet Zone. Please take a moment to complete the survey and return it to the Village Administration building.

We look forward to continuing to work with you on this important Village project.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy and **quiet** New Year.



2016 Special Committee for a Glendale Quiet Zone

Bob Kooris, Chairman

Diane Agricola
Dr. Rodger Brown
Jenny Dennis
Nancy Macenko
Susan McCormick
Peg Shardelow



2016 Special Committee for a Glendale Quiet Zone

Community Update #2

December 30, 2016

Background

In October 2016, Glendale Mayor Don Lofty formed the 2016 Special Committee for a Glendale Quiet Zone to work toward the establishment of a Quiet Zone in the Village. If successful, this would silence train horns, except in an emergency.

The Committee focused its work on four areas:

1. The physical changes outlined in a proposal to the Village from the Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) and CSX Railway.
2. The funding needs for Glendale's share of the project
3. The legislative process
4. Resident communications

The proposal from ORDC calls for Glendale to:

- Accept the closing of the Albion Road crossing, which is the 90th most hazardous crossing in the state
- Relocate the existing pedestrian crossing to a safer area at Sharon Road
- Add two gates and a vehicle detection system at the Oak Road crossing
- Convert N. Greenville Avenue to "no entrance" from Sharon Road.

What progress has been made with the physical changes?

The Committee has created preliminary drawings that show the Albion crossing removed and the area landscaped. Similar concepts were created for the new pedestrian walkway, and for new curbing to enforce the "no entry" restriction for N. Greenville. Improved drawings will be done and submitted to the Village government.

What news is there about the funding?

The ORDC and CSX have agreed to pay 70% of the cost to implement a Quiet Zone. Glendale's share is 30% or \$260,000. However, in a project of this type, we believe responsible planning requires a contingency for overruns, so we've established a fundraising total of \$300,000. The Committee sees the funds coming from a mix of sources including private foundations, a fundraising program and Village funds. At this early point, the Committee has secured one foundation grant for \$50,000, and is approaching others for additional grants.

What about the legislative process?

The responsibility for deciding whether the Village will establish a Quiet Zone rests with the Glendale Planning and Historic Preservation Commission and the Village Council. The Committee Chairman has presented several updates on the project to the Planning Commission and Village Council. The presentations for these meetings may be found on the Village website (www.glendaleohio.org) under the section "Railroad Quiet Zones."

The Committee plans to submit an application to the Planning Commission in February 2017, which will request approval for the changes in streets and crossings that are required by the State and CSX.

If the project clears the Planning Commission, it will then go to Village Council for a final decision whether or not to move ahead with the Quiet Zone.

Throughout this process, there will be opportunities for public comment.

What are the plans for communications?

In addition to mailing residents copies of this "Community Update" along with the one issued in October 2016, the Committee has established a Facebook page named "2016 Glendale Quiet Zone." Residents are encouraged to post questions and comments about the project, and to anticipate a timely response from the Committee.

Additional "Community Updates" will be produced and distributed from time to time.

The Committee has also held two public meetings since being formed. Public meetings will continue throughout the process to gather input from residents and to communicate the progress of the Committee.

A homeowner's survey is in final stages of production and will be distributed Village-wide in early January 2017. It is designed to gauge support of and opposition to the Quiet Zone initiative.

The Committee will continue to post significant materials produced about this work on the Village of Glendale website, and distribute key news and information via the Village email-blast system.

We will also look to extend our reach through local media outlets such as the "Tri County Press" and their partner Internet sites.

What's the story on the yard signs?

When the Committee first set out to address the needs of a Quiet Zone in the Village, the members wanted to illustrate how strong the support was of residents, not just near the tracks but throughout the Village. The signs were created to measure that support. Since requests for yard signs outstripped supply, it seemed using the signs worked and they have since been taken down.

When will I get to vote on the Quiet Zone?

The decision on a project like the Quiet Zone rests with the Planning Commission and Council. Residents will be able to clearly express their views in the survey that will be distributed early in the new year, and in public meetings before the Planning Commission and Council.

Are my taxes going to go up to pay for the Quiet Zone?

The Committee will do its best to raise the \$300,000 Glendale share through foundation support and public fundraising. If there is a shortfall, we will request the balance to be met through existing Village funds. With successful fundraising from both private foundations and residents, and partial funding from the Village, there shouldn't be a need to raise taxes to pay for a Quiet Zone in Glendale.

Will a Quiet Zone increase my real estate taxes?

Studies show the train horns have a negative impact on property values – as much as 15% in some cases. It is conceivable, then, that establishing a Quiet Zone, and the peace that it creates, could cause property values to increase. However, that would mean more tax dollars going to our schools, our roads and our public services. Healthy communities tend to have increasing property values.

What about those who say they like the horns in Glendale?

The Committee has heard this comment from a small number of residents. However, many more neighbors have told us that the increasing number of hourly horn blasts is irritating and disruptive. Every business near or on the Village Square supports a Quiet Zone for this reason.

The fact is, the era of the romantic steam-driven train whistles has passed. These days, trains use high decibel "K Horns" that run on compressed air power and deliver forward and rear blasts. They are mandated to be between 96 and 110 decibels with most rail companies choosing the higher level, to reduce liability. It's worth noting that a chainsaw is also about 110 decibels and most manufacturers recommend that people wear earplugs when working with them.

I've heard we can expect the volume of train traffic through Glendale to increase. Why is that so?

The volume of train traffic through Glendale is, indeed, going to increase. This is a direct result of the new Panama Canal expansion project, which has added a lane of traffic to accommodate a larger number of container ships. The increase in ship traffic will ultimately make its way to the eastern port cities of the US, where the containers will be carried to their destinations by rail.

Currently, 64 trains come through the Village each day, or one every 22.5 minutes. The OKI Regional Transportation Plan projects the enlarged Panama Canal will result in a 38% increase in train traffic through Glendale by 2040.

I saw a study that said Quiet Zones are unsafe. Is this true?

There was a study taken in 2000, when states created and regulated their own Quiet Zones. In 2005, the Federal Railroad Administration took over jurisdiction of Quiet Zones and in 2006 mandated significantly upgraded safety measures. Data since then indicates that Quiet Zones do not negatively affect safety.

How can I learn more or to contact the special Committee?

Go to the Facebook page: 2016 Glendale Quiet Zone. More information is also available on the Quiet Zone page on the Village website at www.glendaleohio.org. Look for the button labeled Railroad Quiet Zones.

Residents are also invited to attend meetings of the Special Committee, which are announced through the Village email blast system.

The Committee's email address is GlendaleQuietZone@gmail.com.