



TOWN OF ACTON
472 Main Street
Acton, Massachusetts, 01720
Telephone (978) 264-9612
Fax (978) 264-9630

Town Manager

November 17, 2004

Mark H. McKeon, Regional Administrator-I
Federal Railroad Administration
55 Broadway Street, Room 1077
Cambridge, MA 02142

Dear Mr. McKeon:

In accordance with the Interim Final Rule for the use of locomotive horns at highway-rail grade crossings (49 CFR Parts 222 and 229), the Town of Acton formally submits our application for the automatic approval of the existing Pre-Rule Quiet Zone for the following highway-rail grade crossings:

Street Name	Crossing DOT/AAR No.
Parker Street	052352Y
Main Street	052353F
Martin Street	052354M
Central Street	052355U
Massachusetts Ave	052356B
Arlington Street	052357H
Central Street	052358P
Private Crossing	052359W

The existing Pre-Rule Quiet Zone corridor is about 4.5 miles in length with the limiting boundaries at the Town lines with the Town of Concord and the Town of Boxborough. The Town sent a notification to alert all the affected parties that the use of locomotive horns at these highway-rail crossings will continue beyond December 18, 2004. Attached herewith are copies of this notification and the certificate of service showing the list of parties that was sent this notification, their mailing address and the U.S. Postal Service certified mail tracking number.

I certify that responsible Town officials have reviewed the documentation submitted with this application and supplied by the Federal Railroad Administration in order to make an informed decision for the continuation of the Pre-Rule Quiet Zone. The Town has determined the existing train whistle ban qualifies for automatic approval by the Federal Railroad Administration as governed by 49 CFR Section 222.41(a). The Quiet Zone Risk Index for the Pre-Rule Corridor is above the Nationwide Significant Risk Threshold (NSRT) but less than twice the Nationwide Significant Risk Threshold and there have been no relevant collisions at any grade crossing within the quiet zone for the five years preceding December 18, 2003.

As part of formulating the application for the Pre-Rule Quiet Zone, the Town obtained the most recent inventory records for the highway-railroad grade crossing in order to update the information available in the FRA National Grade Crossing Inventory Database. The Town used the current US DOT – AAR Crossing Inventory forms from the State Inventory Contact (Guy Rezendes, Highway-Rail Crossing Coordinator – Massachusetts Highway Dept.) and performed a site survey to verify and update the information including, but not limited to, traffic counts, signage and automatic grade crossing warning devices, school bus crossing counts and accident data within the last five years. The inventory forms have been updated and submitted to Guy Rezendes, Highway-Rail Crossing Coordinator at the Massachusetts Highway Department. Attached herewith are copies of the updated grade crossing inventory forms that were submitted to the State Inventory Contact.

The existing safety warning systems (i.e. gates, flashing lights, warning bell, signage, pavement markings, etc...) for the public grade crossings will continue to be maintained as they exist. The Town will also implement a schedule for the required signage at the private crossing (DOT crossing #052359W) adjacent to the Town of Acton conservation land prior to the December 18, 2006 deadline.

The Town of Acton utilized the FRA Quiet Zone Calculator to generate the risk index levels of the relevant crossings within the corridor based on the updated physical and operational characteristics. The results from the Quiet Zone Calculator shows that this application qualifies for automatic approval by the Federal Railroad Administration as governed by 49 CFR Section 222.41(a) to convert the existing train whistle ban to a Pre-Rule Quiet Zone.

If you have any questions concerning our application for the continuation of the existing train whistle ban or need any additional information regarding compliance with the requirements, please contact my office at (978) 264-9612 or Corey S. York, Engineering Department at (978) 264-9628.

Sincerely,

Don P. Johnson
Town Manager

cc: FRA Office of Safety, RRS-23
FRA Office of Public Affairs, ROA-30
Randall Dickinson, FRA Regional Crossing Manager, (1)
Guy Rezendes, Massachusetts Highway Department - Highway-Rail Crossing Coordinator
Richard Gardner, Massachusetts Highway Department - Highway-Rail Crossing Coordinator
Anthony Gouveia, MBTA Operations
Manny Vieira, MBTA – Railroad Property Manager
Representative Martin Meehan, United States House of Representatives
Town of Acton Board of Selectmen
Frank Widmayer, Acton Police Chief
Bruce M. Stamski, Acton Town Engineer / DPW Director

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