



TOWN OF ACTON
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Town Manager

Notification

Date: November 17, 2004

To: Federal Railroad Administration - Office of Public Affairs
Federal Railroad Administration - Office of Safety
Mark H. McKeon, FRA Regional Administrator-I
Randall Dickinson, FRA Regional Crossing Manager, (1)
Richard Gardner, Massachusetts Highway Department Highway-Rail Crossing Coordinator
Guy Rezendes, Massachusetts Highway Department Highway-Rail Crossing Coordinator
Anthony Gouveia, MBTA-Railroad 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 Town Engineer / DPW Director

Subject: Continuation of the Existing Train Whistle Ban in Acton, MA

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 has submitted an application to the Federal Railroad Administration for the automatic approval for the continuation of the existing train whistle ban as a Pre-Rule Quiet Zone at 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. This notification is to alert all parties involved that the use of locomotive horns at these highway-rail crossings will continue beyond December 18, 2004.

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.

Attached herewith is a copy of the backup data generated from the on-line software tool (Quiet Zone Calculator) located on the Federal Railroad Administration web page (www.fra.dot.gov). Town of Acton utilized the FRA Quiet Zone Calculator to determine 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 the existing train whistle ban qualifies for automatic approval as a Pre-Rule Quiet Zone by the Federal Railroad Administration as governed by 49 CFR Section 222.41(a).

Also, attached herewith is a copy of 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. 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

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