Railroad Quiet Zone (RRQZ)

And Crossing Safety Improvement Project
The Problem

*Loud and frequent train horns hurt livability for residents and business, especially those close to the busiest railroad tracks*
City of Eugene Conditions

• 25 major public at-grade crossings within UGB
• Union Pacific runs 23 trains per day on mainline
• 10 city and 3 county at-grade crossings on mainline

This represents 90 % of the train horns heard within the UGB

• Portland & Western 2 trains per day (5% of horns)
• Coos Bay Rail 3 trains per day (5% of horns)
• 13 minor public crossings, 24 private crossings
Charge from City Council

1) Relocate 8th and Hilyard crossing

2) Support the Eugene Train Depot project

3) Create a quiet zone
What is a Railroad Quiet Zone?

A quiet zone is a section of rail line that contains one or more consecutive public crossings in which locomotive horns are not routinely sounded. A quiet zone must be at least ½ mile long. There must be no other crossings within a ¼ mile of the beginning or end of the quiet zone.
How to Create a RRQZ

- Eugene City Council directed staff “to pursue a Eugene railroad quiet zone approval with the Federal Railroad Administration”

- ODOT and Union Pacific Railroad must also agree with the infrastructure to be installed
Project Limits

Van Buren to 8th & Hilyard (UP mainline)
The Solution
Install additional gates and/or other safety measures that will eliminate the need for routine train horns

This would result in silencing 70% of routine crossing horns within the UGB
Community Involvement

• Work with ODOT, Federal Rail and UP to determine what safety measures are possible at each crossing
• Outreach to businesses and property owners near each crossing
• Form citizen advisory panel representing wide range of constituencies to advise staff on safety measures and funding
• Engage the broader community
What is Possible?

Federal rules require a community to select from a narrow range of safety measures that would lower the crossing risk index to what it would be if trains were sounding their horns.

For the 10 crossings, the options are:

- Quad gates
- Medians
- One-way streets
- Close crossings to all access
Quad Gates

2 gates increased to 4 at:
- Monroe
- Madison
- Washington
- Pearl
- High
- Hilyard at 8th,
- Possibly Van Buren
Quad Gates

Madison, Pearl, and Hilyard are similar
Install Medians in Street

Construct medians at Lincoln and possibly Van Buren
Install Medians in Street

Lincoln Street is similar
Convert Two-Way Street to One-Way
Close the Road to All Access

Proposed for Lawrence Street
Improve Pedestrian Safety at Crossings
Pedestrian Flashing Light Signal

Proposed at Lincoln, Jefferson and possibly Van Buren
Pedestrian Gates

• Create physical barrier between pedestrians and tracks
• Allow fencing to be constructed up to crossing gates

Proposed at Monroe and High Streets
Pedestrian Gates

Monroe is similar
Construct Fencing at Gaps

• Additional measure to enhance safety for people who walk, bike

• Reduce trespass, which triggers train horns
How to Fund a Quiet Zone?

- New revenue source
- Existing revenues
- Combination of new and existing revenue sources
New Revenue Source

Fund the entire project through a local bond measure at an estimated cost of $6.8 million to $7.4 million
# Existing Revenue Sources

- Use Riverfront Urban Renewal funds for Pearl, High and Hilyard ($3,105,000)
- Fund the remaining seven crossings by redirecting existing allocated City funds of $3.7 million to $4.3 million to this project

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bike/ped funds from the street repair bond measure</td>
<td>$450,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local gas taxes from the pavement preservation program</td>
<td>$700,000</td>
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<td>City General Fund</td>
<td>$3,150,000</td>
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Combine New & Existing Sources

• Fund Pearl, High and Hilyard Streets through Riverfront Urban Renewal District funds at an estimated cost of $3,105,000

• Fund the remaining seven crossings through a general obligation bond at an estimated cost of $3,800,000 to $4,300,000
When Can This be Built?
How Can I Get More Information?

- www.eugene-or.gov/quietzone
  - Detailed reports
  - Notices of upcoming meetings and presentations
  - Online survey and comment form.
- Contact Eric Jones
  - 541-682-5053
  - eric.r.jones@ci.eugene.or.us
Questions?