



PRESS RELEASE

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The City of Gardner has been working for some time on improving the at-grade crossing on Moonlight Road and the BNSF tracks just south of Old 56 Highway (Main Street). All trains are currently required to sound their horns at this and all other railroad crossings unless approval is obtained for a Quiet Zone. As part of this project, the City and the BNSF Railroad have modified this crossing to qualify for approval from the Federal Railroad Administration for the designation of a Quiet Zone. This means that every train will not be required to blow their horn every time they cross Moonlight Road. The City is happy to announce that on October 27 at 12:01 a.m., trains are no longer required to sound horns at this busy crossing.

There are exceptions to the Quiet Zone regulations. For safety reasons, train engineers are responsible for sounding horns, even within the Quiet Zone, when workers are within 25 feet of the tracks or when other hazardous situations are observed including the presence of persons, animals, or vehicles. An average of 88 trains travel through the city daily. During the transition to a Quiet Zone, residents and visitors are asked to be patient as train engineers adjust to the new exemptions.

The week before the Quiet Zone goes into effect, city personnel will install required signs labeled "No Train Horn" that inform drivers that trains are not required to sound their horns at this crossing. The signs will be installed east and west of Moonlight Road on US 56 Highway, as well as north and south of the railroad crossing on Moonlight Road.

Please be aware that there are still two at-grade railroad crossings located within the City that are not currently designated as Quiet Zones. These crossings are located on the west side of Gardner by the cemetery and near Grand Street, west of Center St. Trains are still required to sound their horns at these crossings, so you may still hear horns depending upon your location. The City plans to perform design modifications and seek approval for a Quiet Zone designation at these crossings sometime in the future when funding is available. Please contact Public Works at 913-856-0914 if you have any questions regarding the Quiet Zone.

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