

MEMORANDUM

TO: William T. Lichter, Village Manager

FROM: David A. Hulseberg, AICP, Director of Community Development

DATE: September 22, 2004

SUBJECT: QUIET ZONES

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) plans to issue the final rule on the sounding of locomotive horns at highway-rail grade crossings. In the Chicago region where the Union Pacific Railroad has not sounded its locomotive horns at crossings on their commuter lines for many years, the Village needs to determine if they would like to keep the Pre-Rule Quiet Zones by notifying the FRA as such.

The DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference has taken the initiative to work with all those communities along the West Line of the Union Pacific to see if they would cooperatively like to create a continuous quiet zone throughout DuPage County. Village staff have been involved in numerous meetings with the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference pertaining to this issue.

The City of Elmhurst has agreed to be lead agency for a filing by all municipalities along the Union Pacific West Line. Village staff is recommending to the Village Board of Trustees that we participate in the joint quiet zone corridor initiative. The benefits of jointly participating in the quiet zone designation will provide for greater stability in assuring railroad horn blowing will not be necessary along the Union Pacific West Line. Any costs associated with compliance or improvements to the Union Pacific West Line would be shared on a pro rata basis. Thus, the costs necessary for the Village of Lombard would be reduced from complying and making improvements by itself.

At this time, staff recommends that the Village Board of Trustees authorize the Village President's signature on an Agreement authorizing delegation to the City of Elmhurst to take such actions as required by 49 CFR Part 222 for the purpose of continuing the Pre-Rule Quiet Zone for the Union Pacific West Line from Elmhurst to Geneva.

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Further, the Village Manager will also need to sign a Chief Executive Officer Statement affirming the review of documentation prepared by FRA filed in Docket No. FRA-1999-6439, sufficient to make an informed decision regarding the advisability of establishing the quiet zone for the Union Pacific West Line.

Should you or members of the Village Board have any questions pertaining to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me. The Village is obligated to contact the FRA by December in order to maintain the Pre-Quiet Ruling.

DAH/jd

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