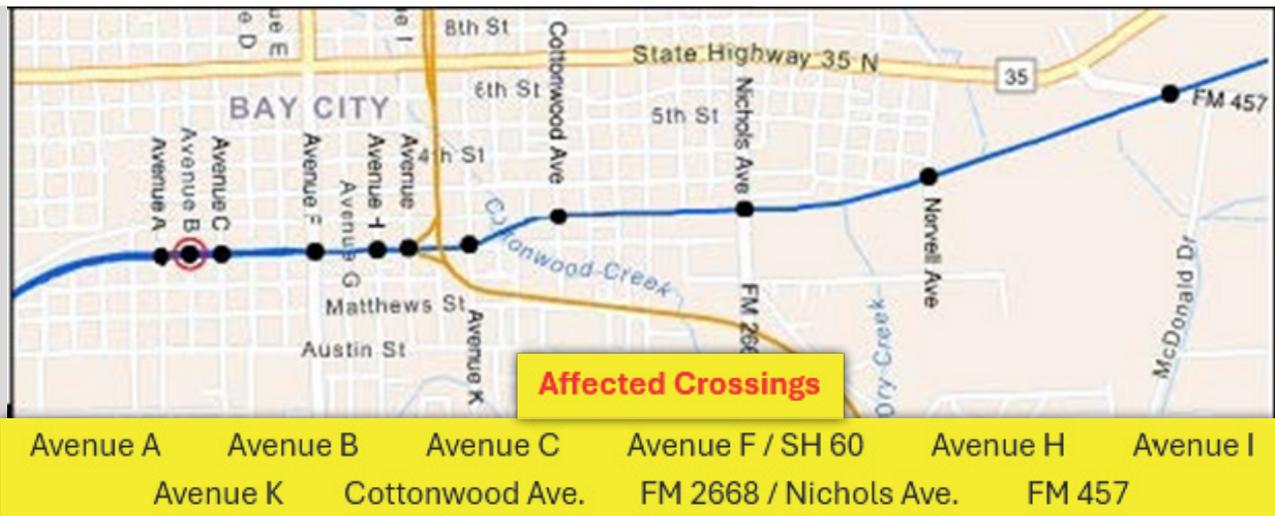




RAILROAD QUIET ZONE PROJECT UPDATE

Railroad Quiet Zones in Bay City: What Residents Should Know



Bay City is working toward creating **Railroad Quiet Zones** within city limits to help reduce routine train horn noise while keeping residents safe at railroad crossings. This effort focuses on improving quality of life while meeting strict federal safety rules.

What Is a Railroad Quiet Zone?

A Railroad Quiet Zone is an area where trains **do not routinely sound their horns** as they approach crossings. However, safety remains the top priority.

Here's what that means:

- **Reduced Horn Noise:** Train horns are not used as part of normal operations at crossings.
- **Safety Upgrades Required:** To make up for quieter crossings, the City must install additional safety features, such as:
 - Raised medians or channelization devices
 - Four-quadrant gates that block all lanes
 - Other barriers to prevent unsafe crossing
- **Emergency Use Only:** Train engineers will still use horns if there is an emergency or immediate danger.

For more information about Public Works projects, including the Railroad Quiet Zone, call 979-323-1659 or visit the City's website to view departmental reports.

Bay City's Current Status

Bay City is currently in the **study and development phase** for Quiet Zones along two rail lines. This work is complex and costly because the City is responsible for paying for the required safety upgrades.

Key Timeline Highlights

December 2023: The City and Bay City Community Development Corporation hired HDR Engineering to study the feasibility of Quiet Zones.

Early 2025: Engineers reviewed all crossings to identify required safety improvements.

May 2025: A public town hall was held to gather community feedback.

May–June 2025: City Council reviewed the study and prioritized the Union Pacific (UP) rail corridor.

December 19, 2025: A formal Notice of Intent was submitted to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).

Currently: The City is waiting for FRA approval before moving forward with construction. This approval process can take 12–18 months.