

**Greg Minikel**

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**From:** Justin Nickels  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 13, 2016 3:48 PM  
**To:** Dan Koski  
**Cc:** Greg Minikel  
**Subject:** Re: Railroad Quiet Zones

You rock.

Thanks.

Mayor Justin M. Nickels  
City of Manitowoc, WI  
Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 13, 2016, at 3:44 PM, Dan Koski <[dkoski@manitowoc.org](mailto:dkoski@manitowoc.org)> wrote:

Good afternoon Mayor,

Greg reached out to Appleton, and they spent \$27,356 on their study for implementing quiet zones on the railroad crossings.

He feels that due to the number of crossings, costs to do a similar study in Manitowoc would be about the same.

Thanks  
Dan

Dan Koski, PE  
Director of Public Infrastructure  
City of Manitowoc  
900 Quay Street  
Manitowoc, WI 54220

[dkoski@manitowoc.org](mailto:dkoski@manitowoc.org)  
[www.manitowoc.org](http://www.manitowoc.org)

phone: (920) 686-6910  
fax: (920) 686-6906

## Greg Minikel

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**From:** Paula Vandehey <Paula.Vandehey@Appleton.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 13, 2016 3:29 PM  
**To:** Greg Minikel  
**Subject:** RE: Quiet Zones/Railroad

Hi Greg,

We hired SRF Consulting Group out of Minneapolis. Christopher Ryan was our main contact. (763)-452-4765.

We have 27 crossings that needed to be analyzed. Our contract was for \$27,356.

They did a great job for us!

Paula

**From:** Greg Minikel [<mailto:gminikel@manitowoc.org>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 13, 2016 2:02 PM  
**To:** Paula Vandehey <Paula.Vandehey@Appleton.org>  
**Subject:** FW: Quiet Zones/Railroad

Hi Paula,

As you can see below, our Mayor is asking what it would cost for a consultant to do the work necessary for implementing the quiet zones for railroad crossings.

We know that you guys have been working towards this.

Who did your study and what was the cost??

Any information you have would be appreciated. Thanks.

Greg Minikel, P.E.  
Engineering Division Manager  
Dept. of Public Infrastructure  
City of Manitowoc  
900 Quay Street  
Manitowoc, WI 54220  
Ph. (920) 686-6910  
E-mail: [gminikel@manitowoc.org](mailto:gminikel@manitowoc.org)


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**From:** Justin Nickels  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 13, 2016 9:49 AM  
**To:** Dan Koski; Greg Minikel.  
**Subject:** Quiet Zones/Railroad

I need your best guess estimate on how much a study would cost to look into implementing quiet zones in the city on our rail lines.

Thanks.

- Justin

	<p><b>Justin M. Nickels</b> Mayor City of Manitowoc, WI (920) 686-6930 Work (920) 374-0499 Mobile jnickels@manitowoc.org 900 Quay Street www.manitowoc.org</p>
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Assistant: Heather L. Sohlden  
[hsohlden@manitowoc.org](mailto:hsohlden@manitowoc.org)

## Greg Minikel

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**From:** Greg Minikel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 24, 2016 8:47 AM  
**To:** Dan Koski  
**Subject:** FW: Quiet Zones for RR Crossings in Jim Brey's District

This is one of the last correspondences I see on the RR Horn Rule and Quiet Zones. I thought that this may have been discussed at a PI Comm. meeting but I do not remember if that was before or after you were here.

I do not believe that we ever did any study or hired anyone to do a study on this.

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**From:** tammy.wagner@dot.gov [mailto:tammy.wagner@dot.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 2:56 PM  
**To:** Greg Minikel; Valerie Mellon  
**Cc:** jackie.macewicz@cn.ca  
**Subject:** RE: Quiet Zones for RR Crossings in Jim Brey's District

Valerie and Greg,

I am following up on the message that you sent to Hackie Macewicz regarding a quiet zone. I would be happy to visit with you about the requirements for silencing the train horns. Below is some information regarding the regulation.

Thank you for inquiring about the Federal Railroad Administration's Train Horn Rule.

1. The Use of Locomotive Horns Final Rule governs standards for sounding the locomotive horn at all public highway-rail grade crossings. It governs a number of aspects in addition to the establishment of quiet zones, such as the decibel level of the horns and the time sequence for sounding the horn, to name a few. It also establishes standards for local public authorities to create quiet zones.
2. You can find the full text of the horn rule, including appendix "A" that outlines the supplementary safety measures (SSM's)  
here: [http://www.fra.dot.gov/downloads/safety/trainhorn\\_2005/amended\\_final\\_rule\\_081706.pdf](http://www.fra.dot.gov/downloads/safety/trainhorn_2005/amended_final_rule_081706.pdf) Appendix "A" begins at the bottom of the third column on page 47647.

### Background:

The FRA's final rule on the use of locomotive horns at public grade crossings, which went into effect in 2005, requires the use of horns at all public highway-rail crossings, and sets standards for sounding of the horns. For instance, engineers are required to sound the horn for 15-20 seconds in advance of the crossing, and the common railroad "long-long-short-long" pattern is now a requirement of the rule. And, there are no duration specifications with how long or short the blasts will sound. Additionally, a maximum sound level for train horns of 110 dB(A) has been set. However, it is important to note that railroads have been given until 2010 to retrofit their equipment to ensure that the horns comply with the maximum sound level. At this time the Chicago 6-county area with excused whistle bans that are listed with the Illinois Commerce commission are exempted from the Train Horn Rule.

If the community of Manitowoc wishes to implement a partial or 24-hour new quiet zone, the City must adhere to the Train Horn Rule's new quiet zone requirements. This includes flashing lights, gates, constant warning time, and power out indicators at every public crossing. I reviewed the 3-crossings listed above and all 3 meet the minimum safety requirements. Next, a quiet zone risk assessment is required to determine if additional safety measures are needed for risk reduction. This may include center roadway medians, channelization devices, 4-quad gates, or other alternatives. Also, the traffic counts must be updated.

I hope this information is helpful and if you have additional questions, please contact me.

Tammy Wagner, Regional Crossing Manager  
Federal Railroad Administration  
200 West Adams Street, Suite 310  
Chicago, IL 60606  
312-353-6203 Ext. 149

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**From:** jackie.macewicz@cn.ca [mailto:jackie.macewicz@cn.ca]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 8:40 AM  
**To:** Greg Minikel; Wagner, Tammy (FRA)  
**Cc:** Valerie Mellon  
**Subject:** Re: Quiet Zones for RR Crossings in Jim Brey's District

The FRA is the governing agency for administering quiet zones, not the railroads. Your question would be better answered by Ms. Tammy Wagner of the FRA.

Thanks,  
Jackie

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**From:** Greg Minikel [gminikel@manitowoc.org]  
**Sent:** 03/12/2012 01:16 PM GMT  
**To:** Jackie Macewicz  
**Cc:** Valerie Mellon <vmellon@manitowoc.org>  
**Subject:** FW: Quiet Zones for RR Crossings in Jim Brey's District

Hi Jackie,

Is there anyway that Manitowoc could be granted a partial exemption (10 pm to 6 am) for the train horns along Franklin St. without installing lights and gates at each crossing?? The majority of the city streets that cross this track have very low traffic volumes and the train speeds are very low. Any help would be appreciated. Thanks.

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**From:** Valerie Mellon  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 2:01 PM  
**To:** Greg Minikel  
**Subject:** FW: Quiet Zones for RR Crossings in Jim Brey's District

Greg, could you forward this article to Jackie and find out how we could get the same analysis done for the crossings in Jim Brey's District for some limited amount of nighttime hours?

Thanx - Val

*Valerie Mellon*

*Director of Public Works/*

*City Engineer/*

*Director of Parks and Recreation*

*City of Manitowoc*

*920-686-6910*

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**From:** Justin Nickels  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 8:44 AM

**To:** Valerie Mellon; Greg Minikel; James Brey - D4  
**Subject:** RR Crossing

Thought this was a great article. Jim, I know this is important to you.

Have we ever looked into this, if not, can we? The article mentions the City has forbidden trains from sounding their horns at night – I thought we couldn't do that?

[http://lacrossetribune.com/news/local/city-might-not-have-to-pay-million-to-keep-rail/article\\_2174295c-6817-11e1-b809-001871e3ce6c.html](http://lacrossetribune.com/news/local/city-might-not-have-to-pay-million-to-keep-rail/article_2174295c-6817-11e1-b809-001871e3ce6c.html)

**Mayor Justin M. Nickels**

**City of Manitowoc**

900 Quay Street

Manitowoc, WI 54220

[jnickels@manitowoc.org](mailto:jnickels@manitowoc.org)

phone: (920) 686-6980

fax: (920) 686-6989

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