



## CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

**FROM:** The Office of the City Manager   **DATE:** January 4, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** Approve Resolution 2019-001, establishing Quiet Zones at all railroad crossings within the city of North Richland Hills.  
**PRESENTER:** Caroline Waggoner, Director of Public Works

### **SUMMARY:**

Approve a resolution establishing Quiet Zones at all railroad crossings within the city of North Richland Hills.

### **GENERAL DESCRIPTION:**

The TEXRail project is nearing completion, and the railroad improvements are largely in place. One of the key components of the construction within North Richland Hills was the retrofitting of each of our ten roadway crossings with safety features so that they can be designated as Quiet Zones by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). Quiet Zone designation will prevent locomotive horns from being sounded when trains are approaching the crossings. Each of the ten crossings was evaluated several years ago, and a plan was developed to incorporate specific items to improve safety at each of these locations, both for motorists and pedestrians. Upgrading railroad crossings to qualify as quiet zones can vary from \$200,000 for smaller roadways to in excess of \$500,000 for larger roadways. The funding for the crossing improvements in North Richland Hills was included in TEXRail's project.

Before the project, each of our ten crossings included basic items like gate arms to alert motorists of the presence of a train. In order for the railroad crossings in the city of NRH to qualify as quiet zones, Supplemental Safety Measures (SSMs) are required to be implemented at every crossing within our jurisdiction. These supplemental measures can include items such as non-traversable medians, and four-quadrant gates. Each location also has power-out indicators, additional roadway signage, constant warning circuitry and flashing lights. The intent is to make it as difficult as possible for motorists to unknowingly or knowingly place themselves at risk of a train collision. The installation and testing of the measures at each crossing has been underway for well over a year, but the final items like bollards in the median openings for the trail and channelizing delineators along some medians were not installed until December 2018.

A Notice of Establishment was sent to the Federal Railroad Administration on December 13, 2018. The purpose of this document is to inform the FRA that all features are in place to complete the SSMs, and the city is seeking official Quiet Zone designation. The quiet zones will become effective no sooner than 21 days following the Notice of Establishment



being sent to the FRA. January 3, 2019 is the 21<sup>st</sup> day in that cycle; therefore, the Quiet Zones will go into effect on January 4, 2019, following City Council approval. TEXRail service is scheduled to commence on January 5, 2019.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve Resolution 2019-001 establishing Quiet Zones at all railroad crossings within the city of North Richland Hills.