

# City of La Porte Quiet Zone Train Horn Violations

## Background on Quiet Zone in the City of La Porte

A Quiet Zone prohibits the routine use of train horns 24 hours per day except in the case of an emergency at all of the active railroad crossings along the Norfolk Southern (NS) Great Lakes Division/Chicago Subdivision Corridor in the City of La Porte. The Quiet Zone was established within city limits on February 13, 2024 extending from Boston Street west to Orchard Avenue. The City qualified for NS Railroad Corridor Quiet Zone status with safety improvements installed at Boston, Pulaski, and Madison Streets. The Quiet Zone qualified for establishment as defined by 49 CFR Part 222.39(a)(3) with the implementation of railroad crossing safety improvements that result in the Quiet Zone Risk Index (QZRI) reduction below the Risk Index With Horns (RIWH).

## Why do I still hear Train Horns in the Quiet Zone?

While a Quiet Zone is in effect for the City of La Porte railroad crossings, you may still hear some train noise from time to time. The general reason for a train to sound horns may be for emergency situations if the conductor finds something on the railroad tracks in the path of an oncoming train. This is an acceptable amount of train horn noise that is allowed per Federal safety regulations. The Quiet Zone name means that railroad operations crews will not be permitted to routinely sound the horns as the normal warning of a train's approach to the railroad crossings.

## How do I report Train Horn violations in the Quiet Zone?

You can file a Violation Report with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), which is the federal government agency that oversees railroads. The Quiet Zone within the City of La Porte prohibits routine use of train horns from Boston Street west to Orchard Avenue. The non-routine use of train horns may still occur if the railroad operator crew needs to provide an audible warning to animals, vehicle operators, pedestrians, trespassers or crews on other trains in an emergency situation if the railroad conductor deems appropriate in order to prevent imminent injury, death, or property damage. You may submit a Violation Report at the following link: <https://www.fra.dot.gov/app/violationreport>