

MOTION

The Ventura Subdivision in the San Fernando Valley consists of railroad track from Union Station to Ventura County running through Council Districts 2, 6, and 12. Currently, 34 passenger trains per weekday are operated on the subdivision by Metrolink and Amtrak. Union Pacific also operates freight trains on the subdivision.

Federal law “requires locomotive horn sounding by trains that approach and enter public highway-rail grade crossings” (49 CFR Parts 222 and 229). However, federal law also allows local jurisdictions (i.e. City of Los Angeles) to apply to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for a so-called “quiet zone” whereby trains do not have to sound their horns at highway-rail crossings if supplemental safety measures are in place.

Currently there are quiet zones in the following Southern California jurisdictions: Glendale, Orange County (9 cities), Pomona, Redlands, City of Riverside, and City of San Bernardino. To reduce train horn noise in the San Fernando Valley and improve quality of life, the City should identify the process to establish a quiet zone in the City of Los Angeles portion of the Ventura Subdivision. In addition, the City should implement a pilot project to demonstrate a quiet zone at the Winnetka Avenue highway-rail grade crossing.

I THEREFORE MOVE that City Council instruct the Department of Transportation, with the assistance of the Department of Public Works, to report back in 90 days with:

1. Current safety measures (gates, medians, etc.) at each highway-rail grade crossing in the City of Los Angeles portion of the Ventura Subdivision.
2. Additional safety measures required to meet FRA quiet zone requirements, estimated cost (total and per individual highway-rail grade crossing), and potential funding sources.
3. An assessment of third-party willingness to fund the quiet zone technical study.
4. Estimated best-case schedule to design, build, and obtain all necessary Metrolink, state, and federal approvals to establish a quiet zone in the vicinity of the Winnetka Avenue highway-rail grade crossing and for the entire Ventura Subdivision in the City of Los Angeles.

PRESENTED BY


JOHN S. LEECouncilmember, 12th District

SECONDED BY



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