



City of Hallandale Beach City Commission Agenda Cover Memo

| Meeting Date: | Item Type: | | 1 st Reading | 2 nd Reading |
|---|---|--|--------------------------------|---|
| 9/28/2022 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resolution <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Other | Ordinance Reading | N/A | N/A |
| | | Public Hearing | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Advertising Required | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Quasi-Judicial: | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| File No.: | | | | |
| 22-381 | | | | |
| Fiscal Impact (\$): | Account Balance (\$): | Funding Source: | Project Number: | |
| \$311,539 | N/A | N/A | M2201 | |
| Contract/P.O. Required | RFP/RFQ/Bid Number: | Sponsor Name: | Department: | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | N/A | Vanessa Leroy | Sustainable Development | |
| Strategic Plan Focus Areas: | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance & Budget | | <input type="checkbox"/> Organizational Capacity | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure/Projects |
| Implementation Timeline: | | | | |
| Estimated Start Date: 9/28/2022 Estimated End Date: 9/28/2022 | | | | |

SHORT TITLE:

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HALLANDALE BEACH, FLORIDA ENDORSING APPLICATION AND PARTICIPATION IN THE RAILROAD CROSSING ELIMINATION GRANT PROGRAM AND COMMITMENT TO PAY TWENTY PERCENT MUNICIPAL SHARE OF APPROXIMATELY THREE HUNDRED THIRTY-SIX THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE DOLLARS (\$336,539) AND IMPLEMENT IF AWARDED; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

STAFF SUMMARY:

Summary:

The attached Resolution endorses Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)'s application to the Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Program (RCEP) to fund physical barriers or highway-rail grade crossing improvement projects that focus on improving the safety and

mobility of people and goods within the Quiet Zone and commit to being a partner and providing a 20% local match for the improvements that will be installed at the grade crossings.

Background:

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is threatening to eliminate the Quiet Zones along the FEC railroad unless municipalities provide an action plan to improve safety measures at their crossings.

Under certain circumstances, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) allows for “Quiet Zones” that are intended to silence train horns in populated areas while still ensuring the safety of motorists, pedestrians, and railway passengers. A Quiet Zone is a section of a rail line at least one-half mile in length that contains one or more consecutive public highway rail grade crossings where locomotive horns are not sounded upon the train’s approach, although train horns may be sounded for emergency situations at the conductor’s discretion.

In 2012, the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), acting as the central clearinghouse representing the Broward municipalities, funded the incremental cost to achieve a Quiet Zones in the County. Today, Broward County has one contiguous Quiet Zone along the Florida East Coast (FEC) railroad corridor. Within Broward County there are 65 at-grade crossings along the FEC corridor. These crossing are located in eight (8) municipalities: Deerfield Beach, Pompano Beach, Oakland Park, Wilton Manors, Fort Lauderdale, Dania Beach, Hollywood, and Hallandale Beach.

There are four crossings within the City of Hallandale Beach:

1. SE/SW 3rd Street
2. Hallandale Beach Blvd.
3. NE/NW 3rd Street
4. Pembroke Road (the southern portion)(shared with the City of Hollywood)

Normally, locomotive engineers must begin to sound train horns at least 15 seconds, and no more than 20 seconds, in advance of all public grade crossings. The train horn is considered a safety feature that can be supplemented by one or more other safety features. Supplemental Safety Measures (SSM) include the following:

- Four Quadrant Gate System
- Gates with Medians
- Gates with Channelization
- One Way Street with Gate(s)
- Close (permanently) Railroad Crossing
- Close (temporarily) Railroad Crossing

Since the creation of the Quiet Zones, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has seen an increase in accidents across the nation.

Current State of the FEC Quiet Zone

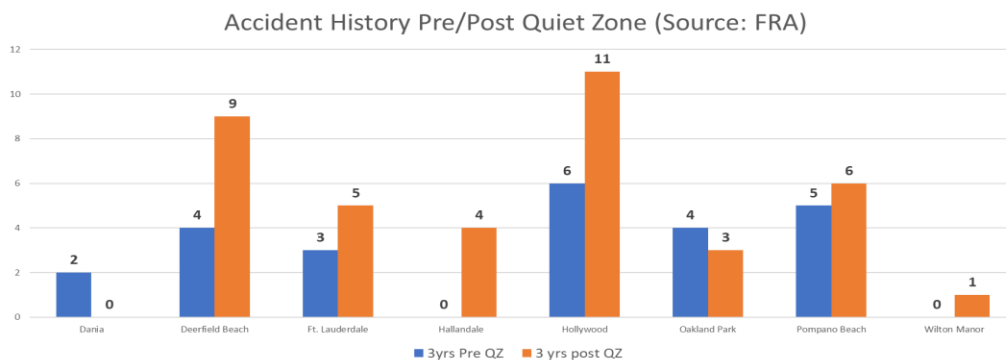


Figure 1- Source: Broward MPO August 17, 2022 Quiet Zone Workshop Presentation

The City of Hallandale Beach has one of the most dangerous crossings in the County (SE/SW 3rd Street) with a 300% or more increase in accidents (Exhibit 2). Since the Brightline began operating, the FEC accidents have been attributed to vehicles either stopping on the crossing, stuck on the tracks, crossing the road, or driving around the gates.

Current Situation:

FRA is now taking actions to reinstitute the train horn in Broward County and is appealing to Broward municipalities who wish to keep the quiet zone to provide an action plan. MPO's action plan includes two parts: Part 1. Outreach and Education and Part 2. Capital Improvements.

Part 1. Outreach and Education.

MPO is planning a public education campaign between October thru December 2022. The multimedia outreach will include messaging on the dangers of going around warning devices, will be geared towards driver and pedestrian users, and based on proven practices. The local share costs for the outreach and education effort are estimated at \$25,000 per municipality. The City will contribute this amount in FY22.

Part 2. Capital Improvements.

The MPO is submitting an application to the Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Program (RCEP) for Broward County, to fund physical barriers or highway-rail grade crossing improvement projects that focus on improving the safety and mobility of people and goods within the Quiet Zone.

RCEP grant funding would support the final design and construction of approximately 40 exit gates and 10 medians at 27 highway-railroad grade crossings, to further enhance public safety and "seal" the rail corridor. This project is a \$23.7 million safety investment by Broward County, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), and several local municipalities, wherein Brightline Trains Florida, LLC (Brightline) will lead the project design and construction.

The Federal share of total costs for RCE Program projects funded through this grant shall not exceed 80 percent and a minimum 20 percent non-Federal share may be comprised of public sector funding (e.g., state, or local) or private sector funding. Affected local municipalities must commit to providing a 20% non-federal match for the improvements that will be installed at the grade crossings.

In meeting with City Staff, MPO recommended the Four Quadrant Gate System for the Hallandale Beach crossings. Brightline estimated the recommended improvements in the City of Hallandale Beach at approximately \$2M. Should the City wish to participate, the municipal share is evaluated

at \$311,539 and, anticipated for FY24 and FY25. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will cover the cost of improvements at the State-owned intersections.

PART 1. Outreach and Education (FY22)

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Public Outreach | \$25,000 |
| Part 1 Total: | \$25,000 |

PART 2. Capital Improvements (FY24 & FY25)

| Crossing Intersection | Project Scope | Gross Cost | Local Share | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------|
| 1 SE/SW 3 rd Street | Add Quad Gates | \$752,736 | 20% | \$150,547 |
| 2 Hallandale Beach Blvd. (FDOT) | Quad Gates already exist | \$0 | 0% | \$0 |
| 3 NE/NW 3 rd Street | Add Quad Gates | \$804,960 | 20% | \$160,992 |
| 4 Pembroke Road (FDOT) | Add Quad Gates | \$826,762 | 0% | \$0 |
| Part 2 Total: | | \$2,384,458 | \$311,539 | |

TOTAL COSTS (Parts 1 & 2): \$336,539

By October 4, 2022, MPO will compile a package of improvement for all the Broward municipalities that are committing to the improvements and submit to FRA.

Why Action is Necessary:

The City recognizes that the proposed capital improvements project is a critical component for this public safety initiative and to maintain the quiet zone designation. This requires the commitment of all of the 8 municipalities along the Florida East Coast (FEC) railroad corridor to maintain the quiet zone, otherwise the designation will be lost.

Cost Benefit:

The local share costs to the outreach and education effort are estimated at \$25,000 per municipality. This expense will be contributed in Fiscal Year 2022.

The local share costs for the capital improvements are estimated at \$311,539. This expense is anticipated for Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025.


PROPOSED ACTION:

The City Commission approve the attached Resolution.

ATTACHMENT(S):

Exhibit 1 – Proposed Resolution
Exhibit 2 – Crossing Data Hallandale Beach

Prepared By: _____


Vanessa Leroy
DSD Director

Reviewed By: Sharon Ragoonan
Sharon Ragoonan
Assistant City Manager

Reviewed By: Noemy Sandoval
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Assistant City Manager