

**TOWN OF HAMBURG, NEW YORK
NOTICE OF INTENT
TO CREATE RAILROAD QUIET ZONES**

A Notice of Intent to create railroad quiet zones within the Town of Hamburg was previously issued by the Town on May 24, 2012. Due to various circumstances which developed since that time, it became necessary to modify the proposed project. The Town has therefore revised the previous Notice of Intent accordingly, as follows:

In accordance with the regulations associated with the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) Train Horn Rule (49 CFR Part 222), the Town of Hamburg is hereby notifying all appropriate parties of the Town's intention to create two railroad quiet zones through public authority designation. Per the FRA regulations, please submit any questions, comments, concerns, or other related information regarding this matter to the Town's contact person shown on Page 4 within 60 days following the date of issuance of this Notice of Intent (by no later than March 4, 2014).

The Town of Hamburg (population 56,936) is located in Erie County, 11 miles south of the City of Buffalo. The quiet zones are proposed to be established over a 4.3 mile length of the CSX and Norfolk Southern (NS) railroad tracks which traverse the Town from north to south. These quiet zones will prohibit the use of horns for trains traveling along this length except in emergency situations where an imminent danger is perceived by the train engineer. This will serve to improve the quality of life for the approximately 20,000 Town residents who live within hearing range of these railroad tracks and are adversely affected by the train horn noise. It will also provide benefits to daily activities at several schools and recreational facilities that are located in close proximity to the tracks.

Per the FRA requirements in this regard, the Town is hereby providing the following information under this notification:

- (1) The following four grade crossings are located within the Town of Hamburg's proposed quiet zones (see attached location maps):

<u>Grade Crossing Inventory No.</u>	<u>Street Name</u>	<u>Railroad</u>	<u>Type of Crossing</u>	<u>Highway Jurisdiction</u>
519502A	Rogers Road	CSX	Public	Town of Hamburg
471716C	Rogers Road	NS	Public	Town of Hamburg
519501T	Cloverbank Road	CSX	Public	Town of Hamburg
471717J	Cloverbank Road	NS	Public	Town of Hamburg

The two CSX crossings (Rogers Road and Cloverbank Road) are to constitute one quiet zone, while the second quiet zone will be comprised of the two NS crossings (Rogers Road and Cloverbank Road). Each of these grade crossings presently has flashing lights and gates, as required by the FRA regulations. They are also equipped with constant warning time devices and circuitry. Power out indicator lights are in place at the NS crossings, and they are in the process of being designed by CSX for installation at their crossings prior to the establishment of the quiet zone.

- (2) Train horn restrictions within the quiet zones will be in effect on a continuous 24 hour daily basis.
- (3) The proposed method for providing the supplemental safety measures (SSMs) that are required by FRA in order to establish the quiet zones is to install mountable medians with reflective channelization devices along the centerline of each highway for a distance of 100 feet from the crossing gate arm on each side of the tracks at the four grade crossings that are located within the quiet zones.

An example photograph showing a similar installation of this type of SSM is provided below. The Town contacted several municipalities with installations of this type (in Montana, Michigan, Nebraska, Illinois, and Indiana), and they all reported no adverse problems with snowplowing or any other factors in this regard. This SSM will serve to inhibit drivers from taking the risk of driving around a lowered crossing gate in an attempt to beat an approaching train. Pavement resurfacing work will also be performed along the length of the highway approaches prior to the installation of the channelization devices, in order to improve the condition of the roadway and stability of the shoulders in the project area.



It is additionally noted that the two railroads, in conjunction with the New York State Dept. of Transportation, are currently in the process of undertaking a project to upgrade the railroads' existing signal and gate equipment at these crossings. NS has completed their design documents and entered into an agreement with NYSDOT for this work. They have informed the Town that they ordered the necessary equipment on 11/5/13, and they are planning to install it this spring. CSX informed the Town that they are presently preparing their design documents for this work, which are expected to be submitted to NYSDOT by mid to late January. Following review and approval by NYSDOT, an agreement is to be entered into between NYSDOT and CSX. CSX will then order the equipment for installation by their crews, which is anticipated to occur during the summer or fall of 2014.

- (4) Through the use of the FRA Quiet Zone Calculator and data in the most recent U.S. Dept. of Transportation Grade Crossing Inventory forms for each crossing, the following risk indices have been cumulatively determined for the grade crossings within the proposed quiet zones:

		<u>CSX</u>	<u>NS</u>
• Nationwide Significant Risk Threshold (NSRT)	=	14,347	14,347
• Risk Index with Horns (RIWH)	=	31,669	30,614
• Existing Quiet Zone Risk Index (QZRI)	=	52,825	51,064
• QZRI with Supplemental Safety Measures (SSMs)	=	13,206	12,766

In that the QZRI with SSMs is less than the RIWH for each of the quiet zones, the proposed quiet zones are qualified to be established on the basis set by FRA that the SSMs sufficiently reduce the risk index to a level which allows train horns to not be sounded without compromising the safety of motorists. Copies of the scenario spreadsheets in this regard, as generated by the FRA Quiet Zone Calculator, are enclosed.

- (5) The Town of Hamburg has received a total of \$525,000 in Federal and State funding for this project. It is expected that the project will be completed within the limits of this funding and that some funds will remain for utilization toward possibly creating additional quiet zones at other grade crossings within the Town.
- (6) Erdman Anthony was retained by the Town of Hamburg in October 2012 for providing consulting engineering services associated with the survey, design, and general services during construction of this project. Design was completed this past August, following which authorization to proceed with construction was received from NYSDOT and the Federal Highway Administration on 8/30/13. In an effort to get the SSMs in place during the past fall, bids were opened on 9/25/13, the contract was awarded to Louis Del Prince & Sons, Inc. on 9/26/13, and a Notice to Proceed with construction was issued by the Town on 10/11/13. However, due to various circumstances, it became necessary to postpone construction until this spring. The contractor has obtained the necessary Right of Entry Agreements from the railroads and received delivery of the traffic channelization devices. It is expected that they will be able to proceed with the pavement resurfacing in mid-April, followed by the installation of the traffic channelization devices. The Town will then send a written notice of establishment of the quiet zones to FRA, NYSDOT, the

two railroads, and local highway and law enforcement authorities. A 21 day minimum period is required following this notice before the quiet zones are able to be officially put into effect. Based on this timeframe, it is the Town's intention to have the work completed by 5/31/14 and the quiet zones in place by no later than 6/30/14.

- (7) Electronic (pdf) copies of the Contract Plans, Specifications, and Final Design Report for this project are available in the Town Documents section of the Town of Hamburg website, which can be accessed as follows:

http://www.townofhamburgny.com/Important_Town_Documents-117736.html

- (8) The Town's contact person for the development of the quiet zones is as follows:

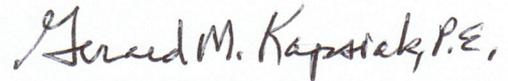
Name: Gerard M. Kapsiak P.E.
Title: Town Engineer
Address: Town of Hamburg
6100 South Park Avenue
Hamburg, New York 14075
Phone: (716) 649-6111, ext. 2355
Fax: (716) 649-2522
E-Mail: gkapsiak@townofhamburgny.com

- (9) This Notice of Intent has been sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, to each of the following officials:

- Robert C. Lauby, Associate Administrator for Safety
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590
- Terry Ludban, Director of Community Affairs & Safety
CSX Transportation, Inc.
500 Water Street
Jacksonville, Florida 32202
- William L. Barringer, Director of Grade Crossing Safety
Norfolk Southern Corp.
1200 Peachtree St., NE
Box 36
Atlanta, Georgia 30309-0036
- Joan McDonald, Commissioner
New York State Dept. of Transportation
50 Wolf Road
Albany, New York 12232

- Edward R. Rosen, Director
Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Safety Section
New York State Dept. of Transportation
50 Wolf Road - POD 53
Albany, New York 12232
- Darrell F. Kaminski, P.E., Acting Regional Director
New York State Dept. of Transportation
100 Seneca Street
Buffalo, New York 14203

Respectfully submitted,



Gerard M. Kapsiak, P.E.
Town Engineer

Date Distributed: January 3, 2014

Town of Hamburg Railroad Quiet Zones



Legend

Town of Hamburg



Neighboring Municipalities



Railroad



Lake Ontario & Erie



LOCATIONS OF PROPOSED SUPPLEMENTAL SAFETY MEASURES (ROGERS ROAD & CLOVERBANK ROAD)

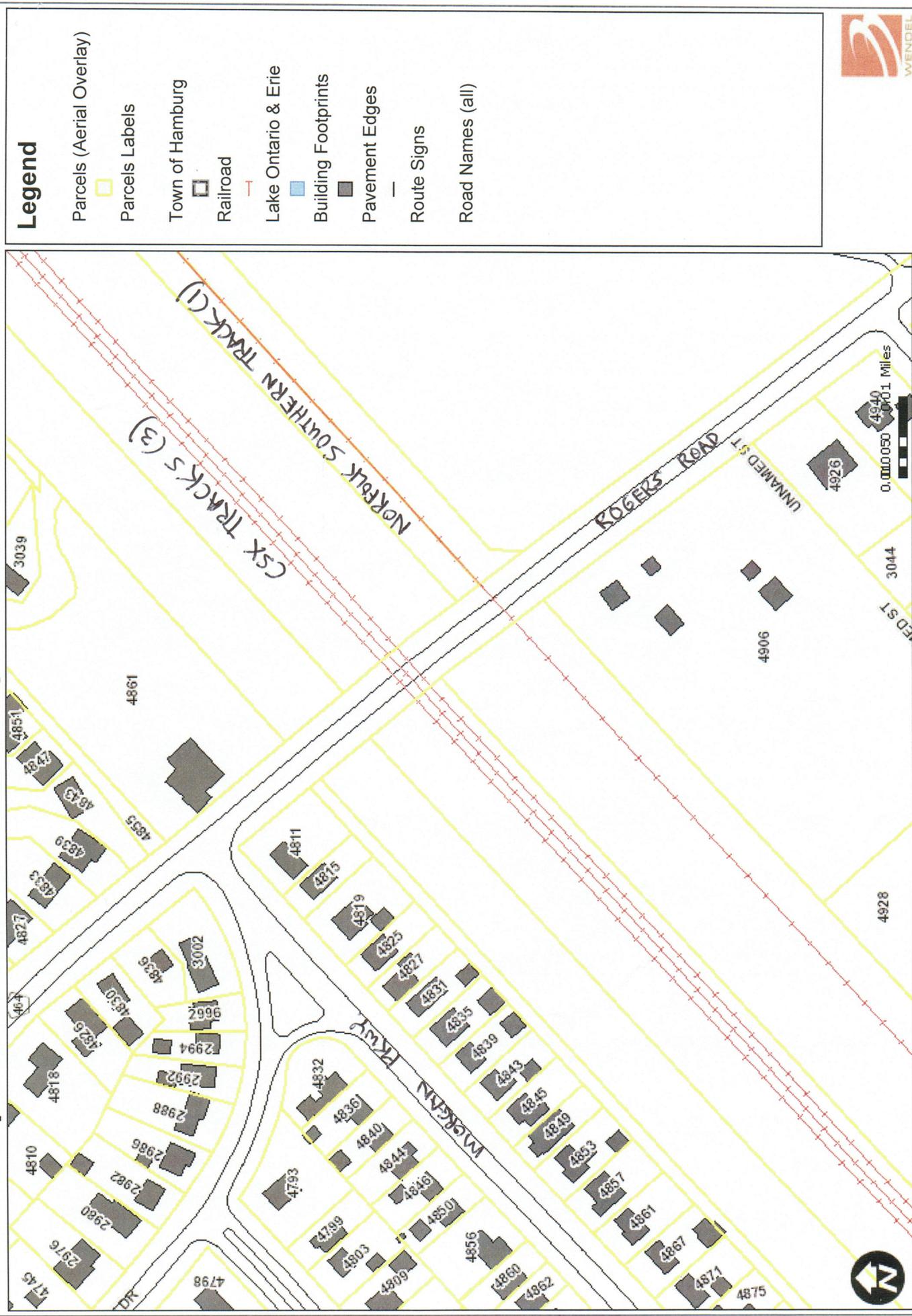


GENERAL LOCATION MAP



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Specific Location Map - Rogers Road Railroad Crossings



Legend

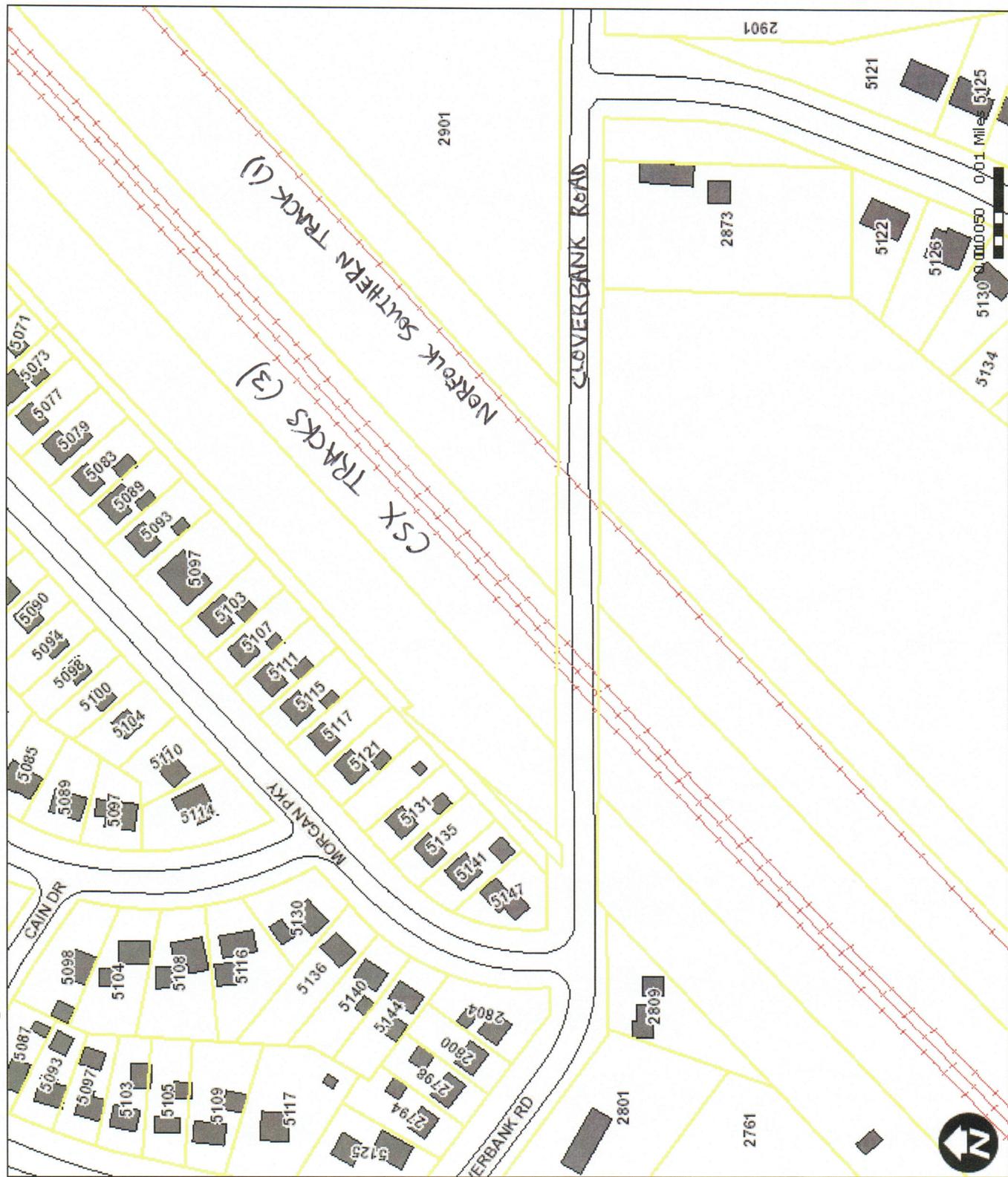
- Parcels (Aerial Overlay)
- Parcels Labels
- Town of Hamburg
- Railroad
- Lake Ontario & Erie
- Building Footprints
- Pavement Edges
- Route Signs
- Road Names (all)



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Specific Location Map - Cloverbank Road Railroad Crossings

Legend



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QUIET ZONE CALCULATOR

Federal Railroad Administration

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Change Scenario:

Crossing	Street	Traffic	Warning Device	Pre-SSM	SSM	Risk
519501T	CLOVERBANK RD	2239 Gates		0	0	46,764.14
519502A	ROGERS RD	7405 Gates		0	0	58,885.00

Create New Zone

Manage Existing Zones

Log Off

* Only Public At Grade Crossings are listed.

Click for Supplementary Safety Measures [SSM]

Click for ASM spreadsheet: **ASM** * Note: The use of ASMs requires an application to and approval from the FRA.

Step by Step Instructions:

Step 1: To specify New Warning Device (For Pre-Rule Quiet Zone Only) and/or SSM, click the MODIFY Button

Step 2: Select proposed warning device or SSM. Then click the UPDATE button. To generate a spreadsheet of the values on this page, click on ASM button—This spreadsheet can then be used for ASM calculations.

Step 3: Repeat Step (2) until the SELECT button is shown at the bottom right side of this page. Note that the SELECT button is shown ONLY when the Quiet Zone Risk Index falls below the NSRT or the Risk Index with Horn.

Step 4: To save the scenario and continue, click the SELECT button

Summary	
Proposed Quiet Zone:	Hamburg-CSX-Rogers & Cloverbank Roads
Type:	New 24-hour QZ
Scenario:	HAMBURG-CS_41389
Estimated Total Cost:	\$0.00
Nationwide Significant Risk Threshold:	14347 .00
Risk Index with Horns:	31669.41
Quiet Zone Risk Index:	52824.57

PROPOSED TOWN OF HAMBURG RAILROAD QUIET ZONE CSX CROSSINGS (EXISTING CONDITIONS)

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QUIET ZONE CALCULATOR

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Change Scenario:

Crossing	Street	Traffic	Warning Device	Pre-SSM	SSM	Risk	
519501T	CLOVERBANK RD	2239	Gates	0	12	11,691.04	MODIFY
519502A	ROGERS RD	7405	Gates	0	12	14,721.25	MODIFY

Create New Zone

Manage Existing Zones

Log Off

Step by Step Instructions:

Step 1: To specify New Warning Device (For Pre-Rule Quiet Zone Only) and/or SSM, click the MODIFY Button

Step 2: Select proposed warning device or SSM. Then click the UPDATE button. To generate a spreadsheet of the values on this page, click on ASM button—This spreadsheet can then be used for ASM calculations.

Step 3: Repeat Step (2) until the SELECT button is shown at the bottom right side of this page. Note that the SELECT button is shown ONLY when the Quiet Zone Risk Index falls below the NSRT or the Risk Index with Horn.

Step 4: To save the scenario and continue, click the SELECT button

* Only Public At Grade Crossings are listed.

ALERT: Quiet Zone qualifies because SSM has been applied in each crossing.

Click for Supplementary Safety Measures [SSM]

Click for ASM spreadsheet: **ASM** * Note: The use of ASMs requires an application to and approval from the FRA.

Summary	
Proposed Quiet Zone:	Hamburg-CSX-Rogers & Cloverbank Roads
Type:	New 24-hour QZ
Scenario:	HAMBURG-CS_41389
Estimated Total Cost:	\$26,000.00
Nationwide Significant Risk Threshold:	14347 .00
Risk Index with Horns:	31669.41
Quiet Zone Risk Index:	13206.14
<u>Select</u>	

PROPOSED TOWN OF HAMBURG RAILROAD QUIET ZONE CSX CROSSINGS (WITH SUPPLEMENTAL SAFETY MEASURES)

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QUIET ZONE CALCULATOR

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Change Scenario:

Crossing	Street	Traffic	Warning Device	Pre-SSM	SSM	Risk
471716C	ROGERS RD	3398	Gates	0	0	28,727.39
471717J	CLOVERBANK RD	1791	Gates	0	0	73,400.96
						MODIFY
						MODIFY

Create New Zone

Manage Existing Zones

Log Off

Step by Step Instructions:

Step 1: To specify New Warning Device (For Pre-Rule Quiet Zone Only) and/or SSM, click the **MODIFY** Button

Step 2: Select proposed warning device or SSM. Then click the **UPDATE** button. To generate a spreadsheet of the values on this page, click on **ASM** button—This spreadsheet can then be used for ASM calculations.

Step 3: Repeat Step (2) until the **SELECT** button is shown at the bottom right side of this page. Note that the **SELECT** button is shown **ONLY** when the Quiet Zone Risk Index falls below the NSRT or the Risk Index with Horn.

Step 4: To save the scenario and continue, click the **SELECT** button

* Only Public At Grade Crossings are listed.

Click for **Supplementary Safety Measures [SSM]**

Click for ASM spreadsheet: **ASM** * Note: The use of ASMs requires an application to and approval from the FRA.

Summary	
Proposed Quiet Zone:	Hamburg-NS-Rogers & Cloverbank Roads
Type:	New 24-hour QZ
Scenario:	HAMBURG-NS_41391
Estimated Total Cost:	\$0.00
Nationwide Significant Risk Threshold:	14347 .00
Risk Index with Horns:	30614.01
Quiet Zone Risk Index:	51064.17

PROPOSED TOWN OF HAMBURG RAILROAD QUIET ZONE NORFOLK SOUTHERN CROSSINGS (EXISTING CONDITIONS)

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Federal Railroad Administration QUIET ZONE CALCULATOR

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Cancel

Change Scenario: HAMBURG-NS_41391

Continue

Crossing	Street	Traffic	Warning Device	Pre-SSM	SSM	Risk	
471716C	ROGERS RD	3398	Gates	0	12	7,181.85	MODIFY
471717J	CLOVERBANK RD	1791	Gates	0	12	18,350.24	MODIFY

Create New Zone

Manage Existing Zones

Log Off

Step by Step Instructions:

Step 1: To specify New Warning Device (For Pre-Rule Quiet Zone Only) and/or SSM, click the **MODIFY** Button

Step 2: Select proposed warning device or SSM. Then click the **UPDATE** button. To generate a spreadsheet of the values on this page, click on **ASM** button—This spreadsheet can then be used for ASM calculations.

Step 3: Repeat Step (2) until the **SELECT** button is shown at the bottom right side of this page. Note that the **SELECT** button is shown **ONLY** when the Quiet Zone Risk Index falls below the NSRT or the Risk Index with Horn.

Step 4: To save the scenario and continue, click the **SELECT** button

* Only Public At Grade Crossings are listed.

ALERT: Quiet Zone qualifies because SSM has been applied in each crossing.

Click for Supplementary Safety Measures [SSM]

Click for ASM spreadsheet: **ASM** * Note: The use of ASMs requires an application to and approval from the FRA.

Summary	
Proposed Quiet Zone:	Hamburg-NS- Rogers & Cloverbank Roads
Type:	New 24-hour QZ
Scenario:	HAMBURG-NS_41391
Estimated Total Cost:	\$26,000.00
Nationwide Significant Risk Threshold:	14347 .00
Risk Index with Horns:	30614.01
Quiet Zone Risk Index:	12766.04
Select	

PROPOSED TOWN OF HAMBURG RAILROAD QUIET ZONE NORFOLK SOUTHERN CROSSINGS (WITH SUPPLEMENTAL SAFETY MEASURES)

SSM CODES | other codes

- 1 Temporary Closure of a Public Highway-Rail Grade Crossing
- 2 Permanent Closure of a Public Highway-Rail Grade Crossing
- 3 Grade Separation of a Public Highway-Rail Grade Crossing
- 4 Four-Quadrant Gates Upgrade from Two Quadrant gates, No Vehicle Presence Detection
- 5 Four-Quadrant Gates Upgrade from Two Quadrant Gates, with medians and no Vehicle Presence Detection
- 6 Four-Quadrant Gates Upgrade from Two Quadrant Gates, with Vehicle Presence Detection
- 7 Four-Quadrant Gates Upgrade from Two Quadrant Gates, with medians and Vehicle Presence Detection
- 8 Four-Quadrant Gates New Installation, No Vehicle Presence Detection
- 9 Four-Quadrant Gates New Installation with medians and no Vehicle Presence Detection
- 10 Four-Quadrant Gates New Installation with Vehicle Presence Detection
- 11 Four-Quadrant Gates New Installation with medians and Vehicle Presence Detection
- 12 Mountable medians with Reflective Traffic Channelization Devices
- 13 Non-Traversable Curb Medians with or without Channelization Devices
- 14 One-Way Streets with Gates



**PROPOSED TOWN OF HAMBURG RAILROAD QUIET ZONES
CSX & NORFOLK SOUTHERN CROSSINGS
SUPPLEMENTAL SAFETY MEASURES**