

Barrett F. Pedersen
President

Irene Avitia
Gil Hagerstrom
John Johnson
Trustees



Roberta Johnson
Clerk

Karen Special
Bill Ruhl
Andy Ybarra
Trustees

Media Release

For Immediate Release
September 18, 2019

Media Calls to
Dawn Catanzaro – 708-203-3745

FRANKLIN PARK'S QUIET ZONE EFFORT IS ON TRACK Funding For Pedestrian Safety Improvements Move Village Closer To Obtaining Quiet Zone Designation

Franklin Park, IL – The Village of Franklin Park has made obtaining a “Quiet Zone” designation a top priority and has aggressively pursued state and federal grants that could help achieve that goal. A recently awarded grant to fund pedestrian safety improvement requirements is helping to move the Village’s quest for a Quiet Zone into its final stages.

Train horns are blown as a safety measure. The horns are warning devices for pedestrians and motorists to signal when a train is approaching. A Quiet Zone designation means that freight trains would not sound their horns while traveling through the Village unless the engineer feels that a dangerous condition exists. Metra trains will only sound their horn when approaching the station or when they view pedestrians or vehicles on the tracks.

“We all know how intrusive and annoying train horn noise can be especially when they impact your sleep,” said Mayor Barrett Pedersen. “The Village has been working hard to obtain a Quiet Zone in Franklin Park to address this situation. The Pedestrian Rail Safety Grant will go a long way to fund the required improvements needed to complete the lengthy and expensive process.”

The \$1,416,343 Pedestrian Rail Safety Grant will fund 90% of the safety improvements needed at the pedestrian crossing at the Calwagner, 25th Street grade crossing, and at the Metra Station.

9500 Belmont Avenue Franklin Park, Illinois 60131 P: (847) 671-4800 E: villagenews@vofp.com

The safety improvements include installing an arm that drops to reduce the number of potential pedestrian accidents on and around the railroad tracks and a warning device between the Metra Station platforms.

The Village is working with Metra to design and construct the safety improvements. Construction will begin after Metra completes the design of the improvements and has the work force available to install the improvements, but the Village is hopeful the work will be completed later next year.

The Village, in partnership with River Grove, will also initiate additional street improvements including the installation of a median barrier to prevent motorists from navigating around railroad gates at 25th Street, Ruby Street, River Road, and Thatcher Road.

Making these safety improvements would be the final steps required to obtain the Quiet Zone status. The Village initiated the multi-step Quiet Zone process in 2010 when Village officials met with representatives from the Illinois Commerce Commission and the Federal Railroad Administration. The Village was required to reconfigure traffic signals at the Ruby Street-Belmont Avenue-Franklin Avenue intersection and at the Ruby Street-Pacific Avenue intersection, with interconnections to the rail crossing signals, to ensure that vehicles are not trapped on the tracks when an oncoming train approaches. In 2015, the Village of Franklin Park partnered with the Village of River Grove to move the process forward. The Village submitted an application for a Quiet Zone on the Canadian Pacific line in 2016 and was notified in 2017 that our application was approved.

“Obtaining a Quiet Zone will certainly enhance the quality of life of our residents,” added Mayor Pedersen. “The improvements made at the grade and pedestrian crossings will also provide important safety protections for all who travel through our Village. I look forward to seeing the Quiet Zone in place soon.”