



County of Rockland

Office of County Executive C. Scott Vanderhoef

NEWS RELEASE

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Diagnostic Team Review to begin for Railroad Crossing Safety/Quiet Zone project

New City, NY – County Executive C. Scott Vanderhoef announces that a Diagnostic Team Review (DTR) for the Railroad Crossing Safety and Quiet Zone Project will take place along the West Shore Line beginning on Tuesday, June 17 through Thursday, June 19. Traffic at and near the crossings will not be affected.

DTR is a federally required procedure involving a group of government agency and railroad representatives. Using crossing safety management principles, the team will evaluate conditions at each grade crossing to ensure the recommendations being made for Supplemental Safety Measures (SSMs) are appropriate. Representatives from the municipality or party responsible for the roadway at each crossing will take part in the review, along with staff from the County's Highway and Planning Departments, the NY State Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), CSX Railroad and the railroad's engineering consultants.

The recently completed preliminary design and engineering phase for the project has recommended SSMs for each crossing. SSMs will vary in complexity by crossing and are required by the FRA Rule to compensate for the absence of a whistle or horn warning. These measures may include four-quadrant gates, median barriers, two-quadrant gates with wayside horns and other measures that meet FRA requirements.

Bergmann Associates has been working with the County on the Draft Design Report as well as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) processes for this project, which will involve 21 crossings along the West Shore line. In April, the County submitted a Draft Design Report to the FRA and NYS DOT for approval, and to CSX Railroad for review. Once approved, NYS DOT will provide the County with authorization to proceed with the project's detailed design phase. Federal law requires NYS DOT approval before the County can move forward.

Rockland County is using the more than \$3.6 million secured for the Quiet Zone project in the 2005 federal transportation bill to pay for the project and will be reimbursed for 80 percent of the cost. The County expects the construction phase to begin in 2009.

The County expects to hold public information update meetings for the project in the fall. For further information on the Rockland County Railroad Crossing Safety and Quiet Zone Project, go to www.rocklandquietzone.com.

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