

## INTRODUCTION

Federal regulations require trains to sound horns at over 110 decibels at all crossings. A community may apply to permit a "Quiet Zone" around railroad crossings. To implement a quiet zone, a community must upgrade railroad crossings to a federally required standard. Railroad companies are not required to participate in funding of these projects and historically there has been virtually no state or federal grants to support these projects, leaving the burden of funding such projects on local communities.

In January 2017, the Rapid City Mayor's Office formulated a task force comprised of downtown residents, downtown business owners, City staff and City Council representatives to review feasibility and evaluate costs of establishing a railroad quiet zone through the Central Business District and Urban Commercial District of Downtown Rapid City. By reducing noise pollution from the train, a quiet zone has the potential to attract further residential, commercial, and mixed-use development and re-development in the downtown area and to strengthen economic stability and prosperity of the Rapid City community. In July 2018, SRF Consulting Group, Inc., on behalf of the City, finalized a feasibility study outlining quiet zone implementation options and costs for the railroad crossings between Maple Avenue and 11<sup>th</sup> Street.

You have received this brief survey because you are a downtown resident, a business owner, or an area developer and we would like to solicit your opinions about the issue of train horn noise, the viability of implementing a quiet zone in the downtown area, and your thoughts on the funding of this project. The survey results will be shared with Rapid City Council and will be a major factor in the decision of whether or not to pursue the quiet zone project.

The survey consists of 12 questions and should take you less than 10 minutes to complete. Please, answer all questions. Your responses will be confidential and we do not collect your name, address, or any other information that will personally identify you. If you have any questions about this survey, please, call us at (605) 394-4110 or email us at [MayorsOffice@rcgov.org](mailto:MayorsOffice@rcgov.org). You can also find the Rapid City Quiet Zone Study Report at [www.rcgov.org](http://www.rcgov.org).

When you are done, please, place the completed survey in the enclosed postage-paid envelope and drop it in the mail or deliver directly to the City/School Administration Center at 300 6th Street, Rapid City, South Dakota 57701. Please, provide your responses prior to noon on **Friday, September 7, 2018**.

## RAPID CITY RAILROAD QUIET ZONE SURVEY

### 1. I am completing this survey primarily as: (Select only one)

- A resident                       A business owner or operator                       A developer or contractor

### 2. How far from a railroad line or a crossing is your home or business? Please, refer to page 4 for the included map.

- Within 1/4 miles                       More than 1 mile away  
 Within 1/2 miles                       I do not live or have a business in Rapid City  
 Within 1 mile                       I am a developer/contractor

**3. Can you hear the train horn from where you are located?**

- Yes
- No

**4. If you own or operate a business, what type of business is it? (You may select more than one answer)**

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retail   | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality/Lodging Services              | <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food Services                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Arts, Entertainment & Recreation Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Construction                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Finance and Insurance                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Wholesale  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate, Rental and Leasing                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative & Support Services         | <input type="checkbox"/> Other  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> I do not own or operate a business in Rapid City |

**5. Do you believe that train horn noise is: (You may select more than one answer)**

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A health issue          | <input type="checkbox"/> A quality of life issue     | <input type="checkbox"/> A customer attraction issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A development hindrance | <input type="checkbox"/> An economic viability issue | <input type="checkbox"/> A non-issue                 |

**6. If you believe train horn noise is an issue, on a scale of 1 to 10, please, identify how much the noise affects you or your business, where 1 is a minimal impact and 10 is a significant impact:**

**7. When considering a meeting location or bringing in guests from out of town, does the train horn affect your plans?**

- Yes
- No

**8. Do you support the establishment of a quiet zone?**

- Yes
- No

**9. If you are a developer or contractor, would you consider more development projects near the railroad if a quiet zone is implemented?**

- Yes
- No
- I'm not a developer or contractor

**10. Depending on the option, upgrading railroad crossings in Downtown Rapid City to meet quiet zone requirements will cost up to \$4.4 million. A public-private funding arrangement may be required to finance the project. Would you be able and willing to financially contribute to the establishment of a quiet zone?**

- Yes
- No

**11. If you answered "Yes" to the previous question, how much would you be able and willing to contribute?**

**12. If you have additional comments about the proposed railroad quiet zone, please, provide your feedback in the space below:**

**THANK YOU!**

This concludes the survey. Your time is appreciated and your input is valuable. Thank you!

