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of Transportation
**Federal Transit
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REGION 10 BULLETIN NO: 09-46

Subject: Use of Locomotive Horns at Highway-Rail Grade Crossings

Program Area: Final Rule

Date: September 30, 2009

In response to a legislative mandate, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has issued a Final Rule on the Use of Locomotive Horns at Highway-Rail Grade Crossings. This final rule, which requires that locomotive horns be sounded as a warning to highway users at public highway-rail crossings, took effect on June 24, 2005.

The final rule provides an opportunity, not available until now, for thousands of localities nationwide to mitigate the effects of train horn noise by establishing new "quiet zones." The rule also details actions communities with pre-existing "whistle bans" can take to preserve the quiet they have become accustomed to.

This final rule, as well as a summary of major changes to the final rule, may be found at <http://www.fra.dot.gov/us/content/1318>. A list of locations of quiet zones may be found at <http://www.fra.dot.gov/downloads/safety.THRReport81709.pdf>.

For further information, contact Region 10's Amy Changchien at (206) 220-4464 or email amy.changchien@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

R.F. Krochalis
Regional Administrator