

# NEWS TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE

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## ► Mayor John E. McCormac Announces Quiet Zone Study

### ► Noise reduction, safety standards bolster Township's quality-of-life goals

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Woodbridge Township Mayor **John E. McCormac** today announced that the Township would enter into the next stage of a study to establish four railroad crossings in Woodbridge as Quiet Zones, which will minimize the loud horn blasts when freight trains reach these crossings.

“People should not be woken up at all hours of the night by the constant blaring of horns,” said McCormac. “We need to reduce the need for this noise while still making sure all the intersections remain safe by meeting all federal and state standards for safety.”

The four crossings are:

- Route 35 next to the Woodbridge Main Library
- Woodbridge Avenue in Sewaren near West Avenue.
- Rahway Avenue at the border of Avenel and Woodbridge proper
- Blair Road near Boynton Park

The improvements necessary to make each crossing a Quiet Zone vary from location to location and may include four-way gates, high curbing down the middle lanes of both sides of the road or other improvements.

Conductors are now required to sound horns within 15 seconds of reaching the intersection, and the noise is sometimes deafening. “When a train comes by at 3 a.m., nobody can sleep through the sound if they are near the crossing,” said McCormac. “The gates and curbing will eliminate the need for the horn at all.”

**Councilman Charles Kenny**, whose First Ward includes three of the four areas affected, was encouraged by the announcement. “We started the process a few months back, and it is great news that we are moving forward,” said Kenny. “I get many calls from residents who have been asking us what we could do, and now we are on the way to an answer.”

**Maser Consulting** of Hamilton, New Jersey will complete the second stage of the study with a \$25,000 contract that was approved by the Township Council at last night's meeting. The money will come from a budget amendment to the Township's 2008 budget introduced last week.

Assuming the Township receives the same level of state aid it received in 2007, the proposed 2008 property tax rate will increase by \$68 to a total of \$1155 for the average Township household.

“This \$25,000 is very well spent, and I am glad the Council included this money in the budget for this year,” said McCormac. “We have been stressing ‘quality-of-life’ issues in Woodbridge this past year, and a good night's sleep is certainly part of that effort.”