



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

**NOV 26 2019**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Mr. Joseph E. Barr  
Director of Traffic, Parking and Transportation  
City of Cambridge  
344 Broadway, Second Floor  
Cambridge, MA 02139

**Re: THR-110518 (U.S. DOT National Highway-Rail Crossing Inventory Number 052313H)**

Dear Mr. Barr:

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has reviewed the application and supplemental materials submitted on behalf of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts (City), pursuant to Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (49 CFR) Section 222.39(b), *Public authority application to FRA*.

FRA approves the application submitted by the City for the crossings listed above. FRA has provided comments on the City's application in an enclosure. Implementation of the alternative safety measure (ASM) described in the City's application will result in a Quiet Zone Risk Index of 92,521, which is below the Risk Index With Horns (the risk that would be present if the horns were still sounding) of 95,143. The City is reminded that an established quiet zone must be maintained as approved, in full compliance with 49 CFR Part 222, *Use of Locomotive Horns at Public Highway-Rail Grade Crossings*.

The City may submit its Notice of Quiet Zone Establishment in accordance with 49 CFR § 222.43, *What notices and other information are required to create or continue a quiet zone?*, after successfully installing the proposed ASM, as described in the application, and complying with applicable quiet zone requirements contained in 49 CFR § 222.35, *What are the minimum requirements for quiet zones?*

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. James Payne, Staff Director, Highway-Rail Crossing Safety and Trespass Prevention Programs Division. Mr. Payne may be reached at (202) 493-6005 or James.Payne@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

Karl Alexy  
Associate Administrator for Railroad Safety  
Chief Safety Officer

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Steve Poftak, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority  
Mr. Ryan Coholan, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority  
Mr. David Scorey, Keolis Commuter Services  
Mr. David Fink, Pan Am Railways  
The Honorable Stephanie Pollack, Massachusetts Department of Transportation  
Mr. Jonathan Gulliver, Massachusetts Department of Transportation  
Mr. Matthew Nelson, Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities  
Mr. Brian Christy, Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities  
Commissioner Branville G. Bard, Cambridge Police Department  
Ms. Nancy E. Glowa, City of Cambridge

**Enclosure: Grade Crossing Application Summary for THR-110518**

(For crossings that are considered for the calculation of the Quiet Zone Risk Index)

FRA encourages all quiet zone public authorities to provide and maintain additional traffic control devices (such as signage, pavement markings, etc.) as needed to encourage appropriate traffic movements for vehicles and/or pedestrians at or across the tracks.

Crossing Number 052313H (Sherman Street)

FRA notes the City's proposal to install a 25-foot non-traversable median south of the crossing and a 52-foot non-traversable median north of the crossing. The City views this crossing treatment as an ASM with a suggested effectiveness rate of 0.51. However, based on the information provided, FRA has determined that an effectiveness rate of 0.417 is more appropriate.