



**The Vinings  
Community  
Working to  
Silence the  
Train Horn.**

[www.quiettraincampaign.com](http://www.quiettraincampaign.com)



## Facts and Questions about the **VININGS QUIET TRAIN CAMPAIGN**

### **What train crossings are impacted by the new gate system?**

Four-quadrant gate systems will be installed at the Woodland Brook and Paces Ferry crossings. No gates are contemplated at the Paradise Shoals crossing. Quiet zone status is expected to be achieved by the realignment of the road to connect with Woodland Brook, resulting in the permanent closure of this crossing. The cost of this realignment will not be a part of this campaign, but will be borne by Cobb County or others.

### **When could the new gates be installed?**

All parties involved with the installation of four-quadrant systems believe that the installation will be accomplished within 18 months. It is possible that it could occur sooner depending on the engineering requirements, the equipment manufacturer and the contractor installing the new gate equipment all of which is under the control of CSX.

### **How much will the new gates cost and where will the money come from to pay for the gates?**

The total project cost, including engineering, equipment and installation, is not expected to exceed \$750,000. The funding for this project will come in part from Cobb County, with the remainder from contributions primarily from individuals living and companies having an office or doing business in the Vinings community.

### **Is my donation to the fund tax deductible?**

Yes, donations to the Vinings Community Quiet Zone Fund, Inc. are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

### **Can the train engineer still blow the train horn even with the new gates?**

A locomotive engineer may sound the train horn to provide a warning to animals, vehicle operators, pedestrians, trespassers or crews on other trains in emergency situations if, in the locomotive engineer's sole judgment, such action is appropriate in order to prevent imminent injury, death, or property damage.

### **How is the new gate system safer than the old gate system?**

Typical two-quadrant gate systems utilize gates to prevent approaching vehicles from entering the crossing (entrance gates). The problem arises when vehicles drive around the lowering or lowered entrance gates either because they do not see the train or believe that they can beat the train to the crossing. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has reviewed studies from across the country and analyzed the effectiveness of various types of grade crossing signal improvements. According to the FRA, four-quadrant gates have an effectiveness rating higher than any other type of active grade crossing warning device improvement. Four-quadrant gates fully block vehicles from entering the crossing, since gates lower across both approach and departure lanes on both sides of the crossing.

### **Will the new gate system delay the train movement through Vinings?**

No. The installation of the four-quadrant gate systems will not affect the speed of train movement through the Vinings community. Train speeds are determined by the speed-related classification of the respective track.



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### **What is Cobb County's involvement in this campaign?**

The Cobb County government has been involved with this endeavor for many years and is fully behind this project. With the recent enactment of new regulations and rules, Cobb County was able to initiate the request to establish a quiet zone on behalf of the Vinings community.

### **What happens if we don't raise enough money for the new gates to be installed?**

Currently, the Vinings community is scheduled to be the first quiet zone established in Georgia under this new rule. If the funds are not raised by the time CSX is ready to install the gates in Vinings, other communities that have submitted a request and raised the required money will have their gates installed ahead of ours. We will continue to raise funds and the gates will be installed once we have raised sufficient funds, but not remaining first in line could result in a significant delay.

### **Why should I contribute? I like the train horn and it does not bother me at night.**

The sounding of the train horn negatively affects a large percentage of the Vinings community. The silencing of the train horn will contribute to the health and welfare of these community members by reducing the amount of noise pollution and nuisance as well as increase, in many cases, the value of their homes and businesses. In addition to the noise abatement, the four-quadrant gates provide a greater level of safety at the crossings. This is a community project which will benefit all individuals living and companies having an office or doing business in the Vinings community, and all are asked to contribute to this endeavor.

### **What happens if we raise more money than needed for the new gates?**

To the extent funds are available, they will be used to fund other measures and devices that will increase the public safety of members of the Vinings community and contribute to their overall health and welfare. As soon as the objectives of the campaign have been achieved, it is intended that the non-profit corporation will be dissolved.