

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## QUIET ZONE REACHES COMPLETION



*Groundbreaking Event for Quiet Zones, November 2016.*

The Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and its partners from Brightline are proud to announce the completion of quiet zone construction. This project, which began construction in late 2016, is now complete along the entire Florida East Coast Railway (FEC) corridor in Broward County which includes the Cities of Deerfield Beach, Pompano Beach, Oakland Park, Wilton Manors, Fort Lauderdale, Dania Beach, Hollywood and Hallandale Beach.

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With the construction complete, the MPO will be submitting the necessary paperwork to the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Railroad Administration, to file the notice of establishment for a quiet zone. After the required minimum 21-day review period the quiet zone will be in effect for the entire 26-mile railroad corridor. In preparation, for the implementation of the Quiet Zone Brightline has delivered the “No Train Horn” placards and is coordinating their installation advising motorists of the quiet zone.

The Quiet Zone is anticipated to become active at midnight on May 18, 2019 and the train horns will stop sounding, unless the train engineer perceives an emergency or threat on or near the tracks or there is construction in the area. The MPO and its member governments encourage everyone to only cross railroad tracks at designated grade crossings and obey all warning devices. Remember, see tracks, think train.

“The leadership role the Broward MPO has played in working with partner cities and agencies is really something to be proud of” said MPO Chair and City of Hollywood Commissioner Richard Blattner. “I am pleased that the City of Hollywood was the lead city for this project which will improve the quality of life for our neighbors”

“Quiet zones are quality of life improvements that can only be applied for by the cities or counties with jurisdiction over the adjacent roadway. Brightline has engaged in an aggressive safety outreach campaign over the past few years. Now is the time for cities and the county to start educating their residents and stakeholders on what the quiet zone will mean when implemented,” said Adriane Share, Executive Vice President of Rail Infrastructure with Brightline.

“This will be the longest single quiet zone in the country,” said Broward MPO Executive Director Gregory Stuart. “While this project came across many challenges and delays, I believe the resulting decrease in noise for our communities will have a very positive impact. Our organization’s leadership has been key to getting this quiet zone operational in our region.”

The \$5 million investment and close to 5 years of effort by the Broward MPO and partners, brings improvements at 24 grade crossings and additional pedestrian improvements. While this investment in our economic vitality and quality of life brings benefit, the fact remains that train awareness and caution remain paramount.

The Broward MPO is a transportation policy-making board responsible for transportation planning and funding allocation in Broward County. The Broward MPO works with the public, planning organizations, government agencies, elected officials, and community groups to develop transportation plans.

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