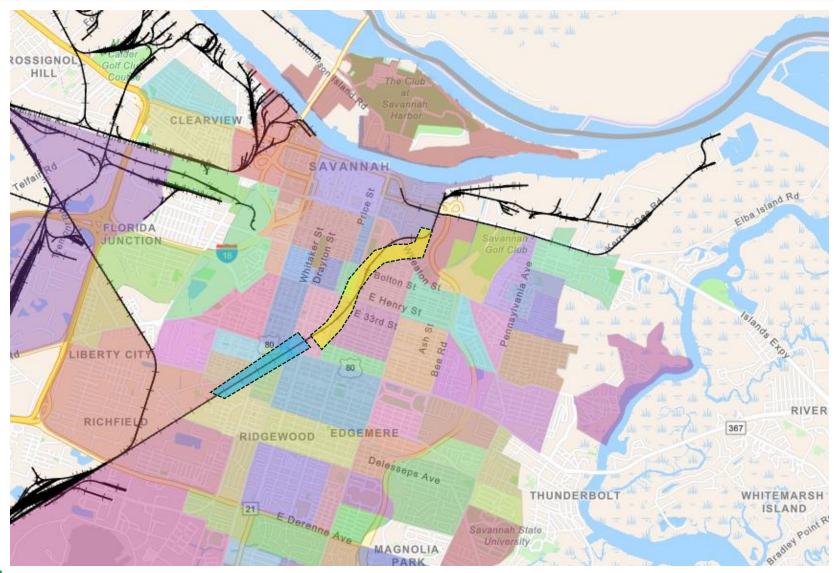


# **Quiet Zone Update**

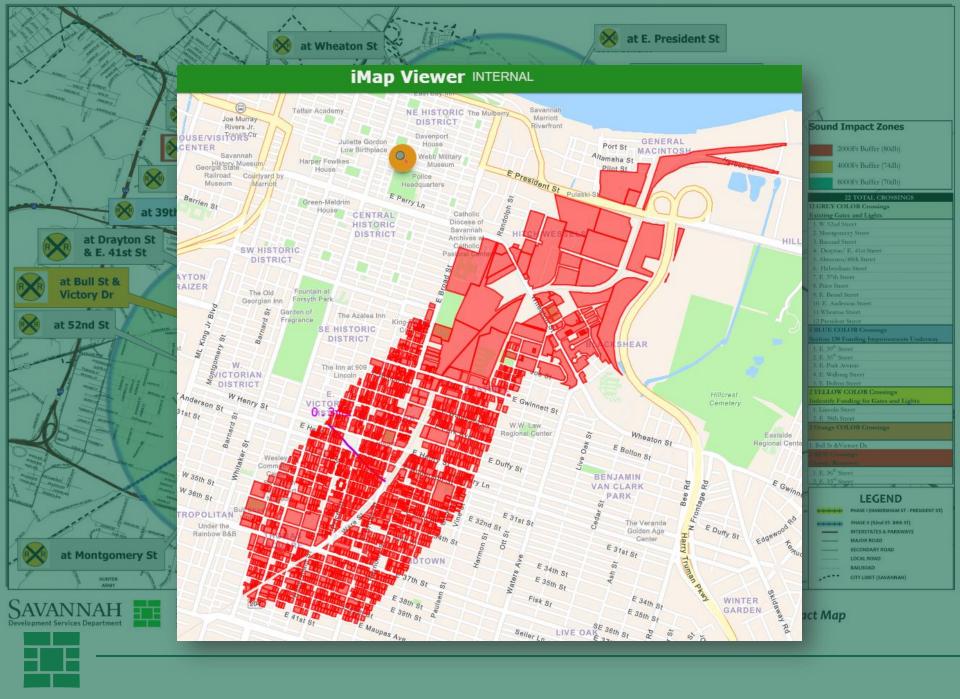
Joseph Shearouse Director of Policy & Governmental Affairs



## Savannah's Railroads







### Regulations

#### **Quiet Zone Requirements**

- Minimum Length <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Miles of Rail ROW
- Active Warning Devices
  - Crossing Gate Arms
  - Flashing Lights
  - Constant Warning Time Devices
  - Power Out Indicators
- Diagnostic Site Review Meeting
- FRA Risk Assessment
- Advance warning of Quiet Zone

#### **Federal Laws**

- Railroad Safety Act of 1970
- Train Horn Rule (49 CFR Part 222)
  - 15 seconds prior to each crossing or <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> mile
  - Horn shall be between 96-110 decibels



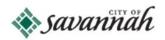
### 2012 Feasibility Study

### Study Results

- 22 rail crossings, 10 without Active Warning Device
- Constant Warning Time Upgrades Required
- Improves Quality of Life
- Promotes Continual Economic Growth
- Capital cost estimates of \$10-\$15M

#### Recommendations

- 1. Improve Working Relationship
- 2. Partner with Regional Stakeholders
- 3. Pursue Grant Funding

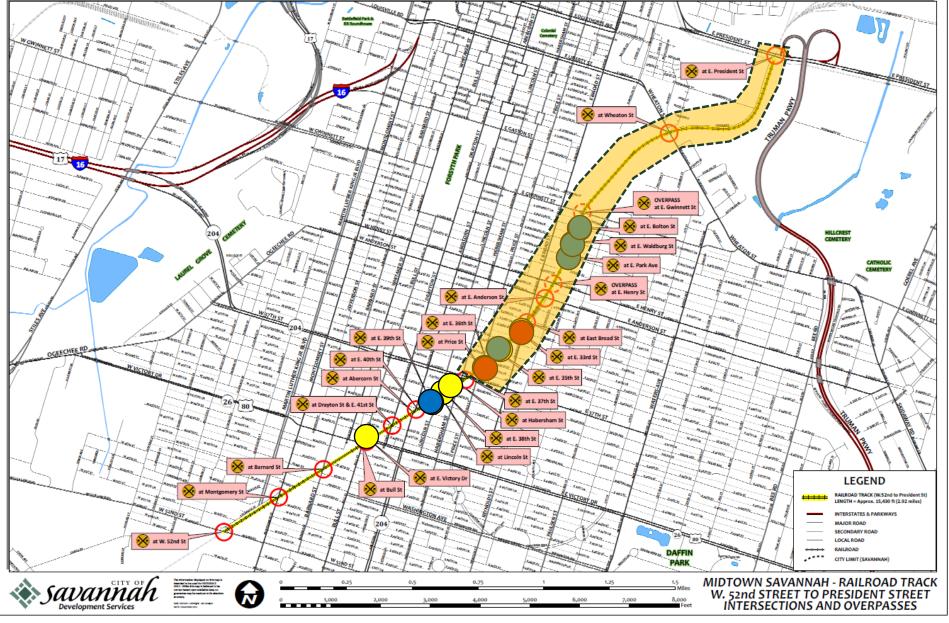


Quiet Zone Implementation Field Study



November 2012

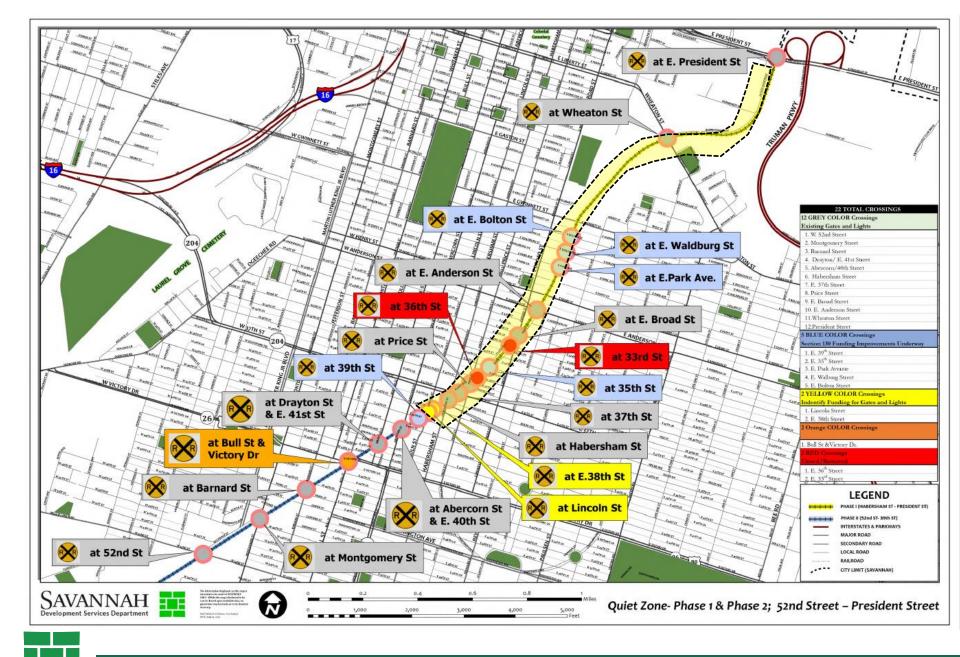


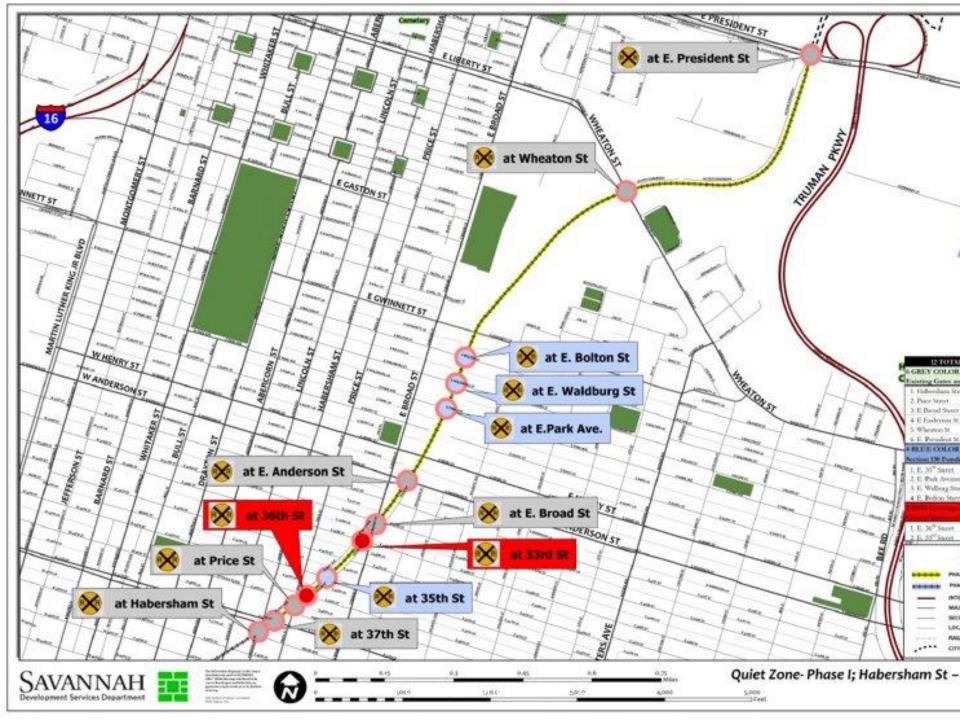


### Quiet Zone Timeline 2011 - 2023

2000-2009	European Union pass new Emission Standards		
		March 2021	Low Train Speeds allow City to request a CWT Waiver
2011	Savannah Short-line Railroad experiences increase in trains traffic	June 2021	Quiet Zone Diagnostic Meeting held with
February 2012	Late Night Train Horn Complaints increase, and City Council request City Manager explore options		GDOT, WATCO, CSX, FRA, and City
		September 2021	Sign Audit Complete. New sign installed
		October 2021	Corridor markers updated
December 2012	City's Bureau of Community and Economic Development release report estimating Quiet Zone in excess of \$10-15 Million	March 2022	Crossing Closures Complete- 33rd 36th
		June 2022	35 <sup>th</sup> and East Park Gates and Lights Installed
October 2017	City engaged GDOT to review short line railroad corridor for safety enhancements	June 17, 2022	Constant Warning Time Waiver Granted by GDOT
November 2018	<b>18</b> GDOT review recommends installation of gates and lights at multiple crossing, a signage inventory assessment, and restriping of all pavement markings	September 2022	Victory Drive safety improvement experience design challenges
		October 2022	City decides to pursue a 2 phased Quiet Zone beginning with the largest section: 11 crossing,
December 2019	GDOT and City agree to utilized \$1.5M in Federal Section 130 to enhance safety.		Habersham- President.
		March 2023	FRA conducts site visit of Savannah and approves our approach
May 28, 2020	City Council passes Resolution accepting \$1.5M in Federal Safety Grant (Section 130) and agrees to close 33rd and 36th		
		July 27, 2023	Notice of Intent to Establish Quiet Zone submitted to FRA, GDOT, WATCO and CSX.
June 2020	GDOT allocates fund for Section 130 Project		







## Project Milestones / Next Steps

Date	Key Action	Status
March 2021	Constant Warning Time Waiver	COMPLETE
June 2021	Diagnostic Meeting with Partners	COMPLETE
March 2022	\$1.5M grant upgrades (7) crossings	COMPLETE
July 27, 2023	Notice of Intent (NOI)	COMPLETE
September 2023	NOI Comments Due	
October 2023	Notice of Establishment (NOE)	
November 2023	Potential Quiet Zone Activation	



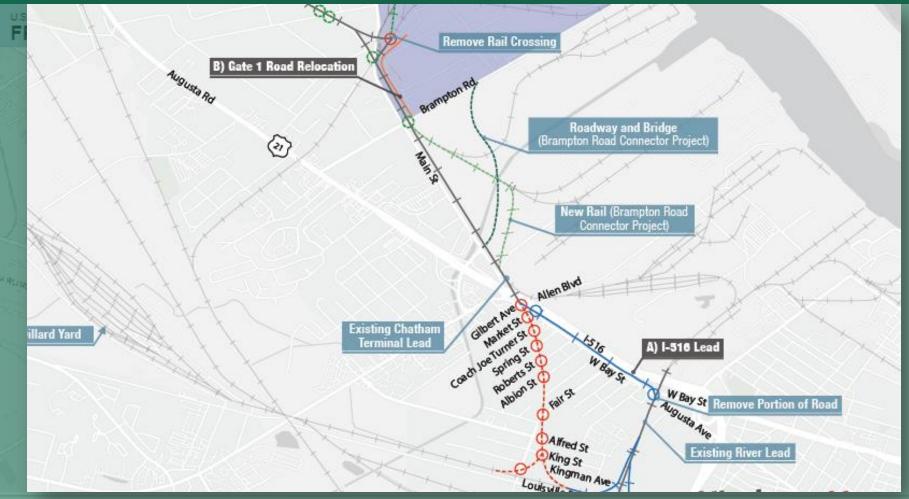
## What's Next

### Quiet Zone Phase II

- MARTINL RXR at E.39th St 26 80 at Abercorn St & E. 40th St at E.38th St RXR LINCOLN ST F at Drayton St at Lincoln St RXR & E. 41st St HABERSHA at Bull St & Victory Dr RXR at Barnard St 9 TOTAL CROSS 5 GREY COLOR Cros Existing Gates and Light Montgomery Su Barnard Street 4. Drayton/ E. 41st Stree RXR at Montgomery St BLUE COLOR ion 130 Fu WASHINGTON I Ladotty File YELLOW COLOR Cr 5 BLII 204 at 52nd St LEGEND INTERSTATES & PARKWAY MAJOR ROAD SECONDARY ROA LOCAL ROAD RAILROAD .... CITY UMIT (S SAVANNAH Interested Conference and Fair INTERNET UNLA: While this may is beefarened as the control. Local agent analysis before a local parameters may be made to the disade atomic parameters. R Quiet Zone- Phase 2; 52nd - 38th Street 2,375
- January 2024
- East 38<sup>th</sup> East 52<sup>nd</sup>
- Length 1 mile
- 9 neighborhoods
- 1800 properties
- GDOT Victory / Bull

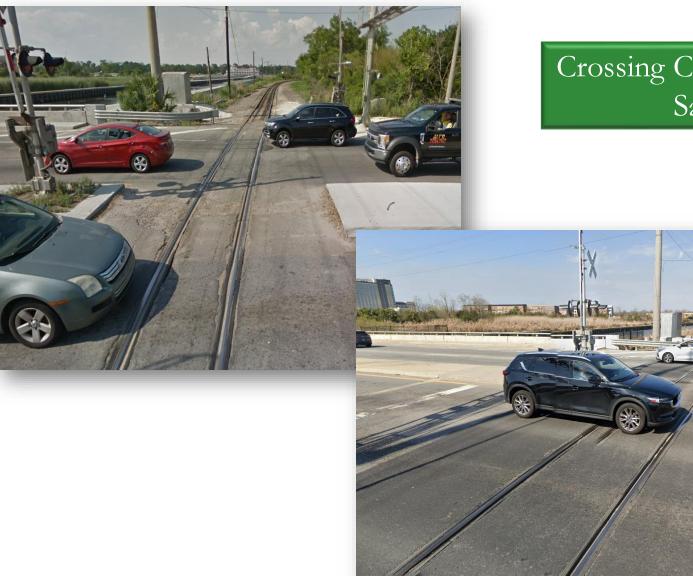


## West Savannah



Woodville Neighborhood

- 11 Crossings: 9 without Active Warning Devices
- 0.8 Mile / 500 properties
- Chatham County \$1.8M in Railroad Elimination Grant







## Our Project Partners

#### Continue to work with

- Federal Railroad Administration
- East Savannah Industry partners
- Georgia's Department of Transportation
- Railroad Representatives
- Neighborhood leaders
- Chatham County
- Congressman Carter's, Senator Ossoff and Senator Warnock's Offices





## **Questions?**

