

# Railroad Quiet Zones



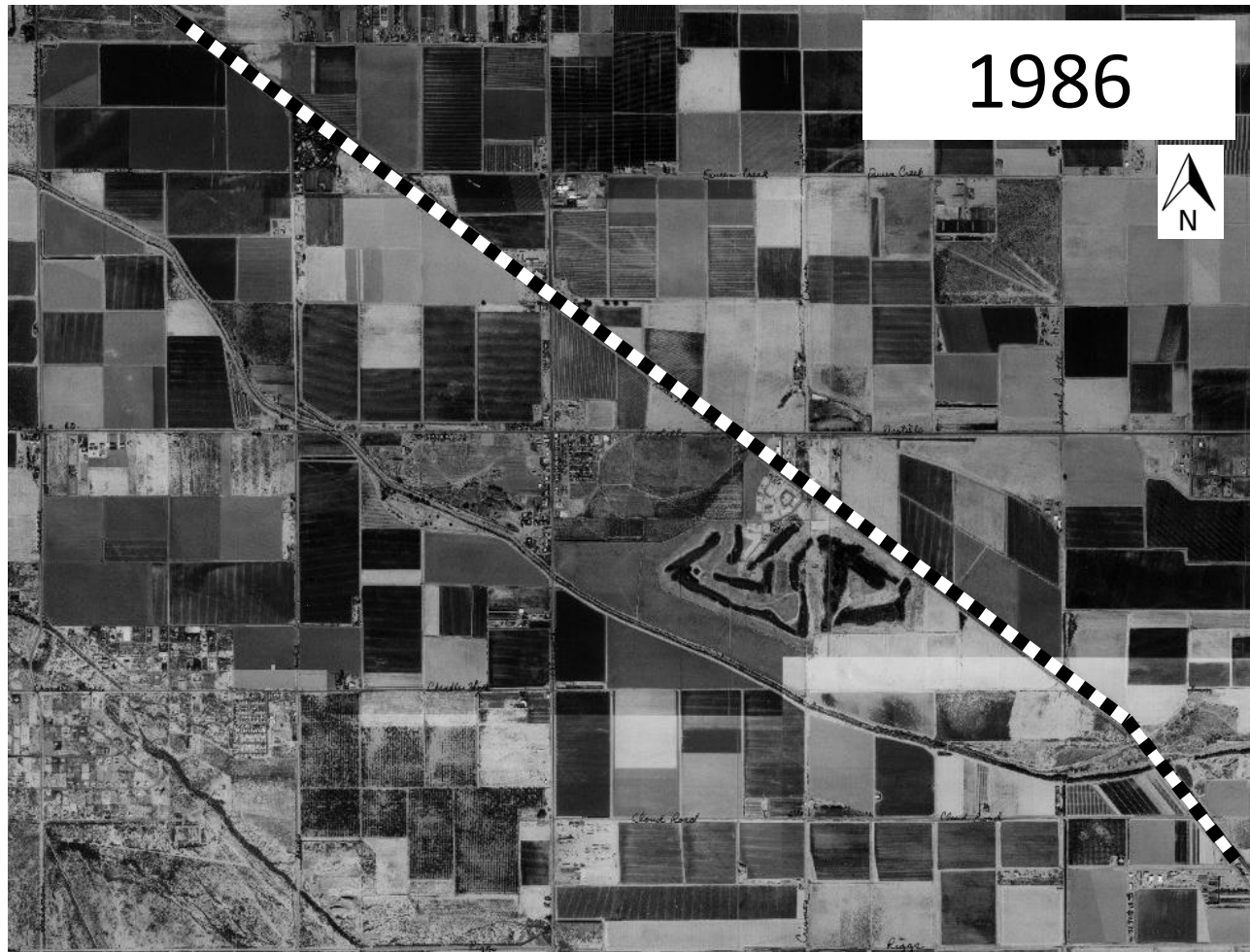
Troy White- Public Works Director

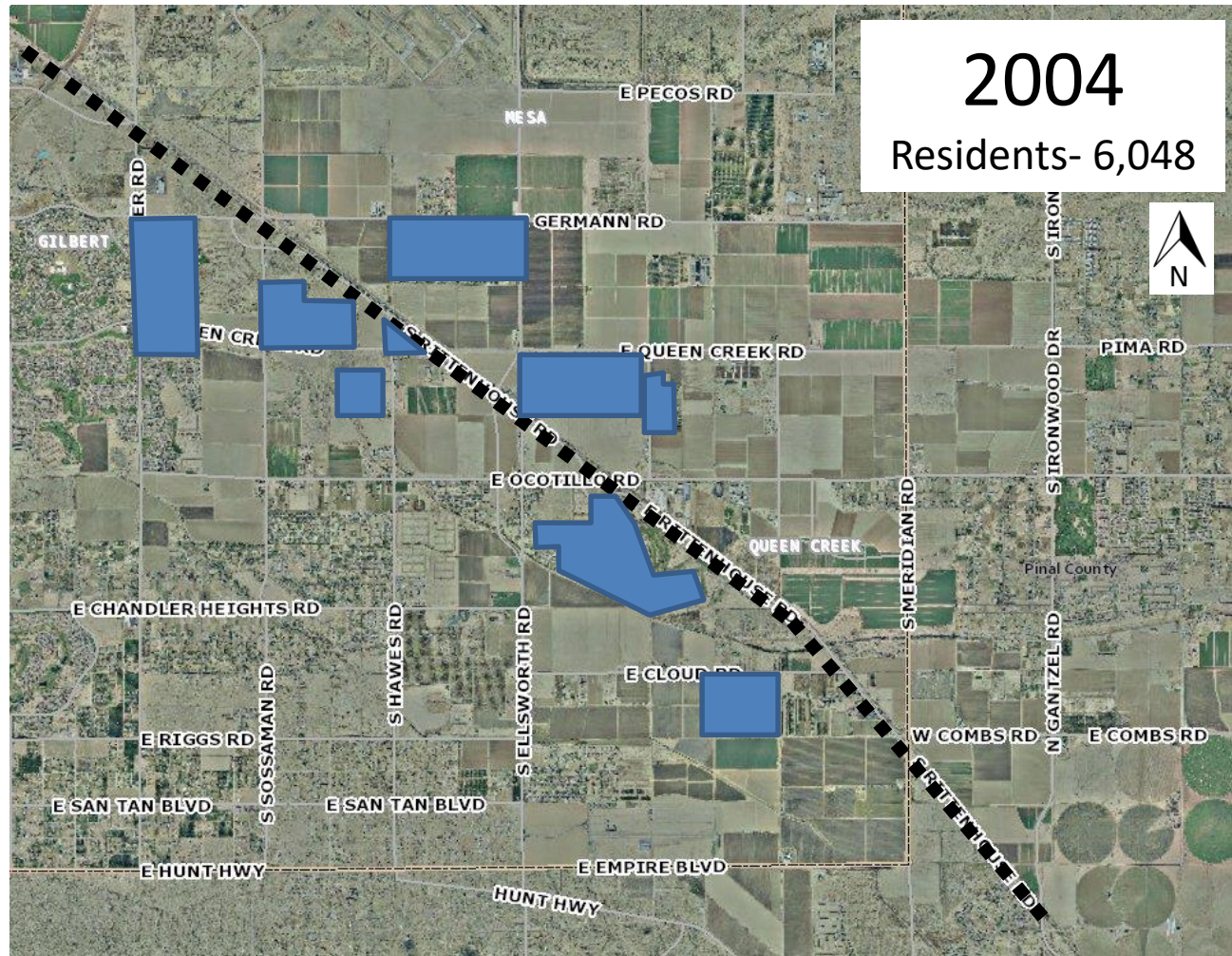
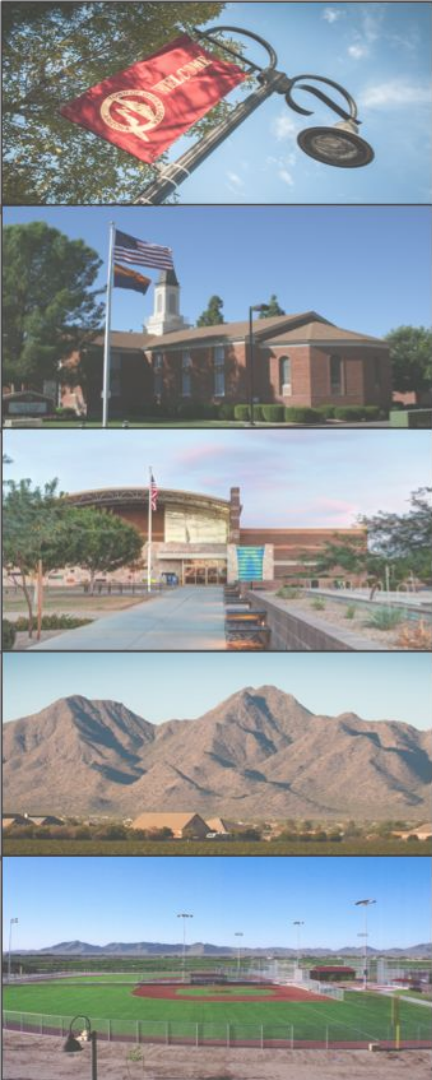
March 20, 2019

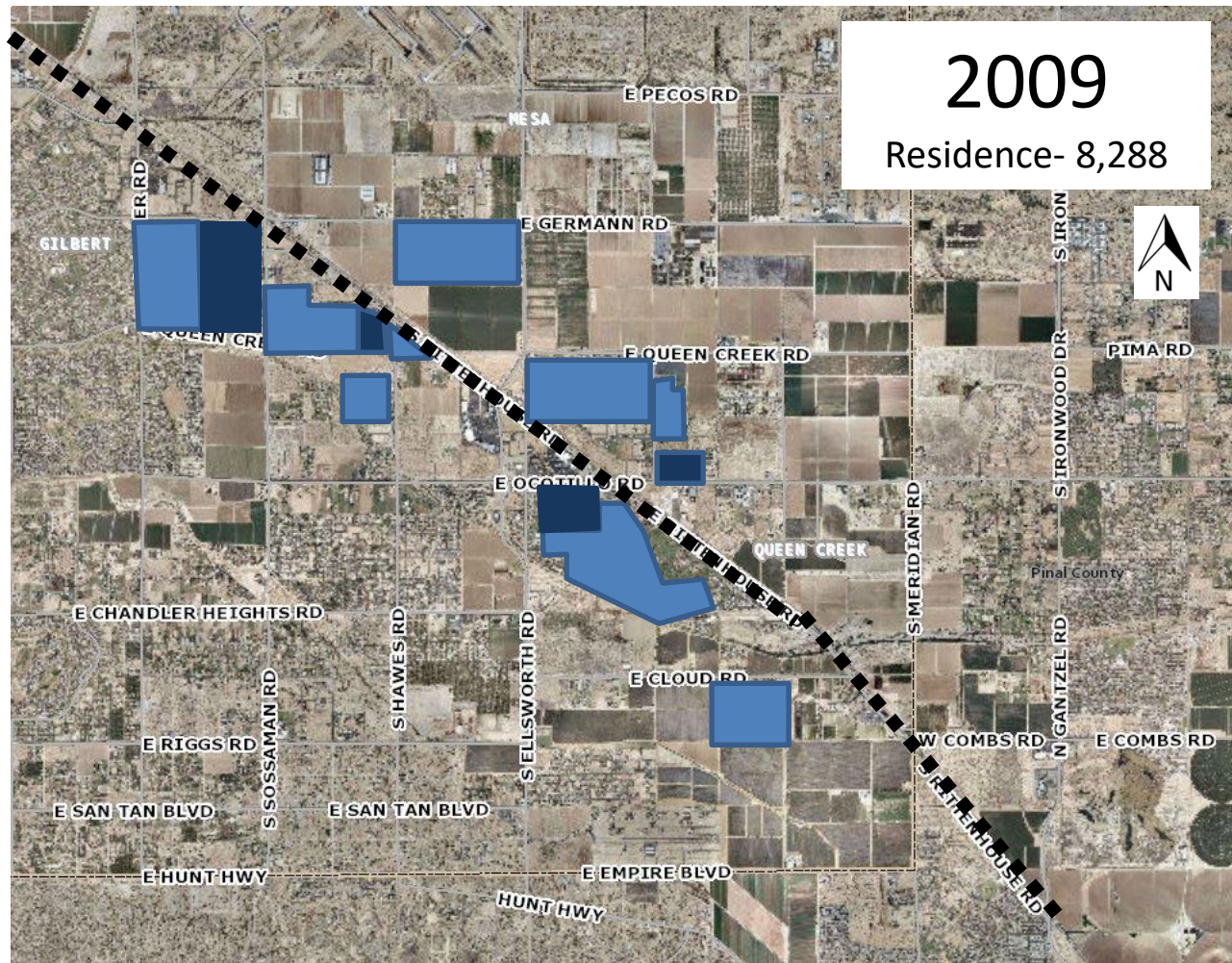
# Railroad Quiet Zones

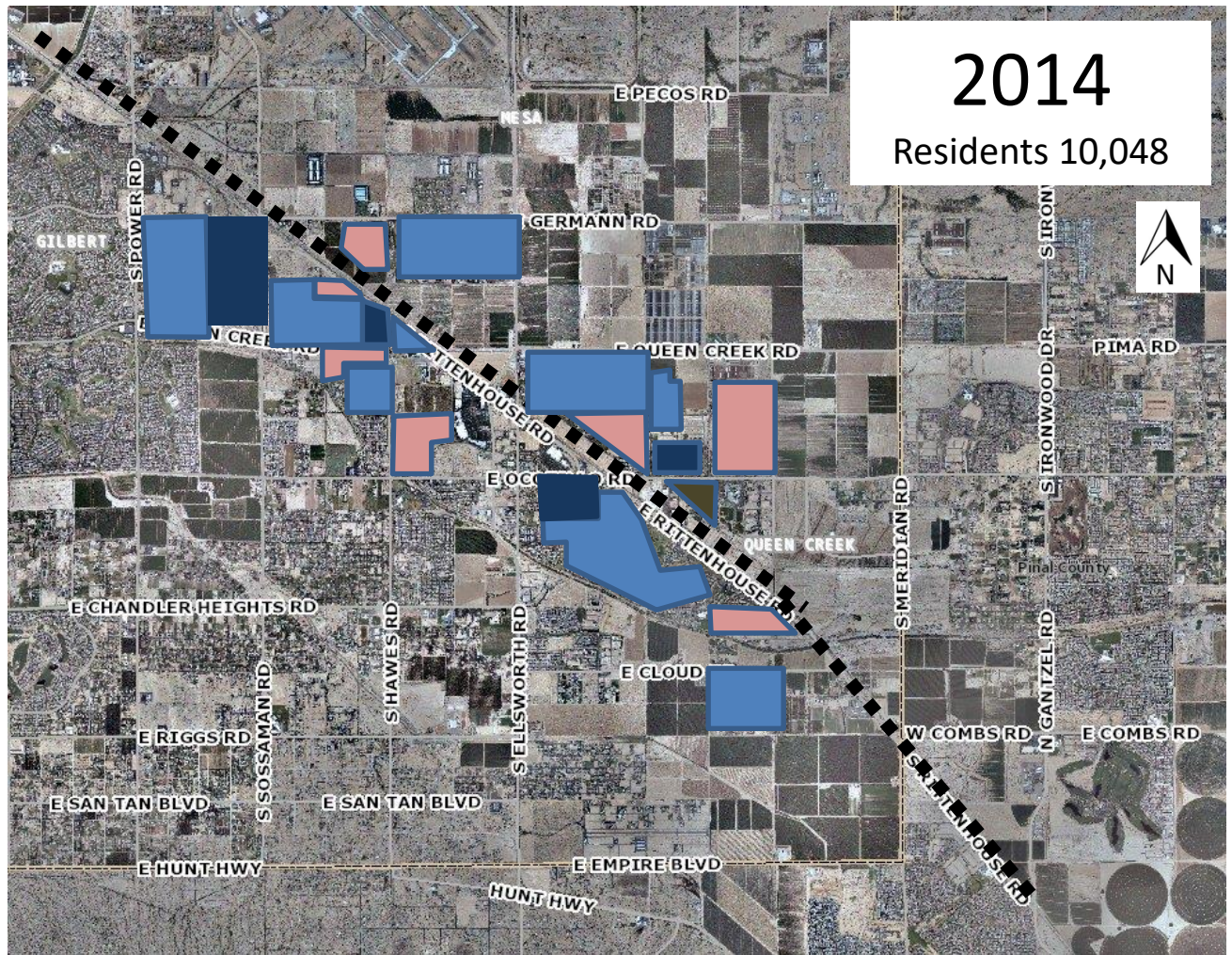
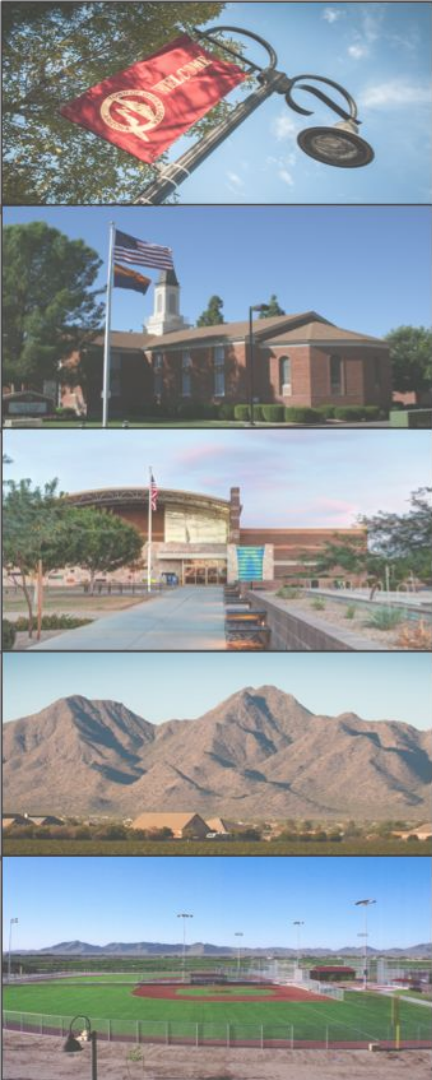


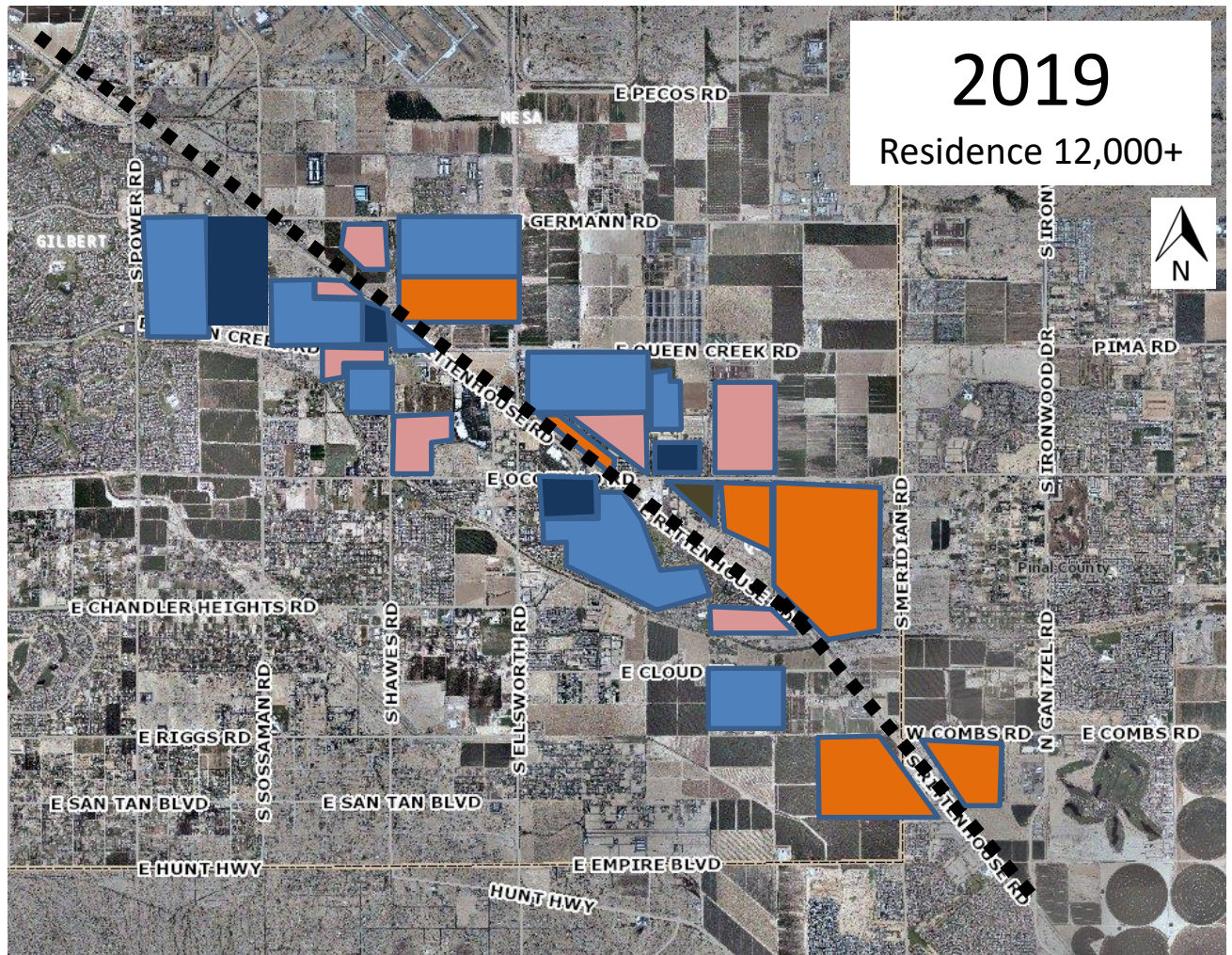
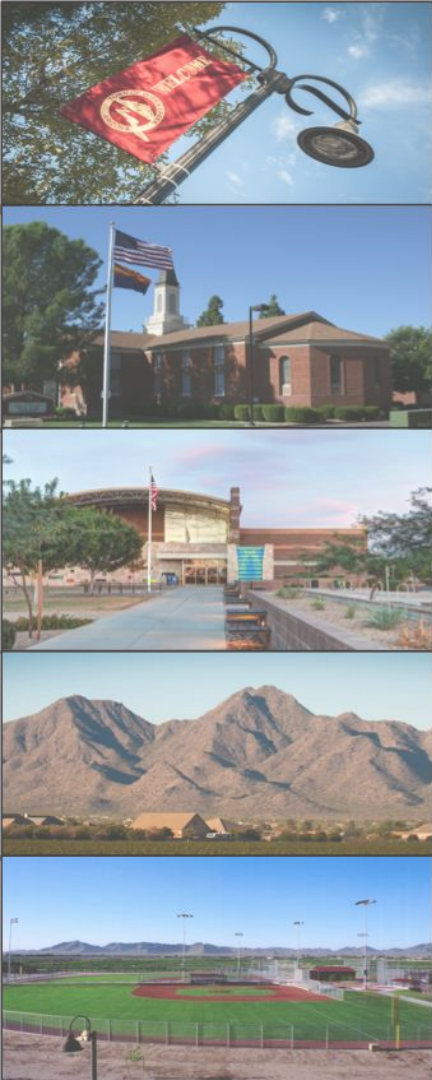
- Residential growth along the Railroad corridor
- Federal Railroad Administration- Train Horn Rule
- Quiet Zone:
  - Definition
  - Process
- Cost for implementing a Quiet Zone









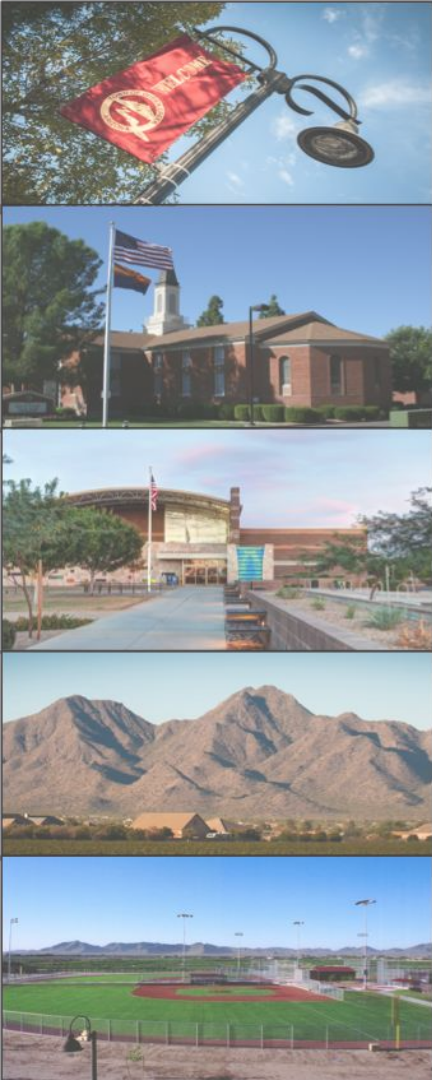


# Railroad Quiet Zones Train Horn Rule

Under the [Train Horn Rule](#) (49 CFR Part 222), locomotive engineers must begin to sound train horns at least 15 seconds, and no more than 20 seconds, in advance of all public grade crossings.

If a train is traveling faster than 60 mph, engineers will not sound the horn until it is within  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile of the crossing, even if the advance warning is less than 15 seconds.

Source: Federal Railroad Administration





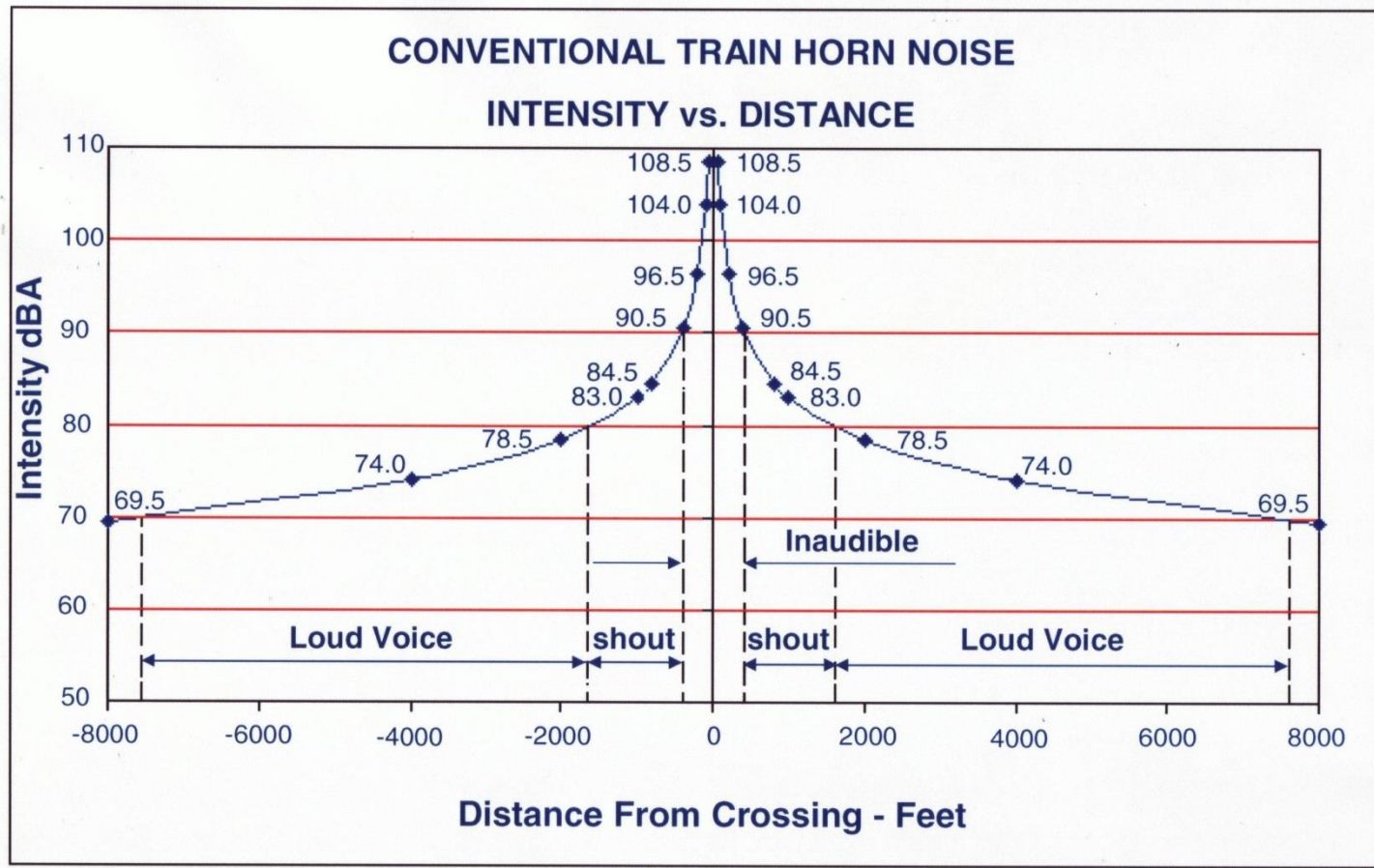
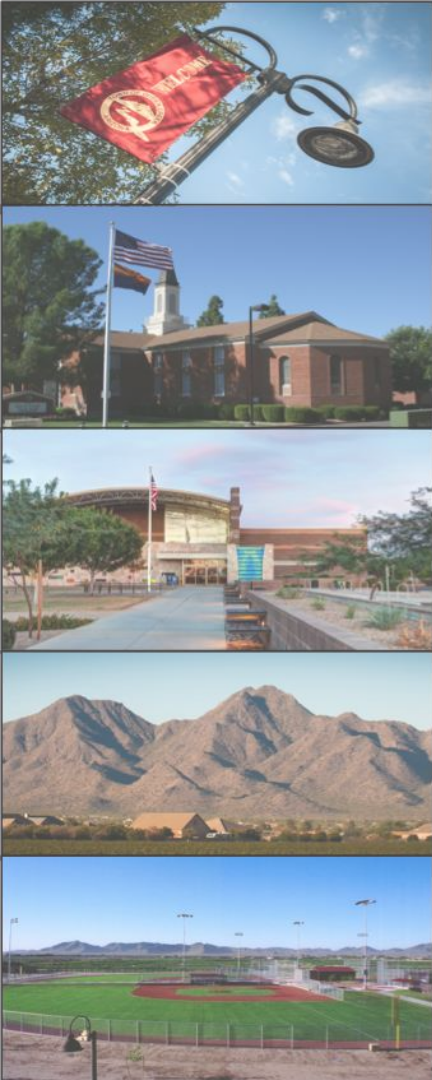
# Railroad Quiet Zones Train Horn Rule

Train horns must be sounded in a standardized pattern of 2 long, 1 short and 1 long blasts. The pattern must be repeated or prolonged until the lead locomotive or lead cab car occupies the grade crossing. The rule does not stipulate the durations of long and short blasts.

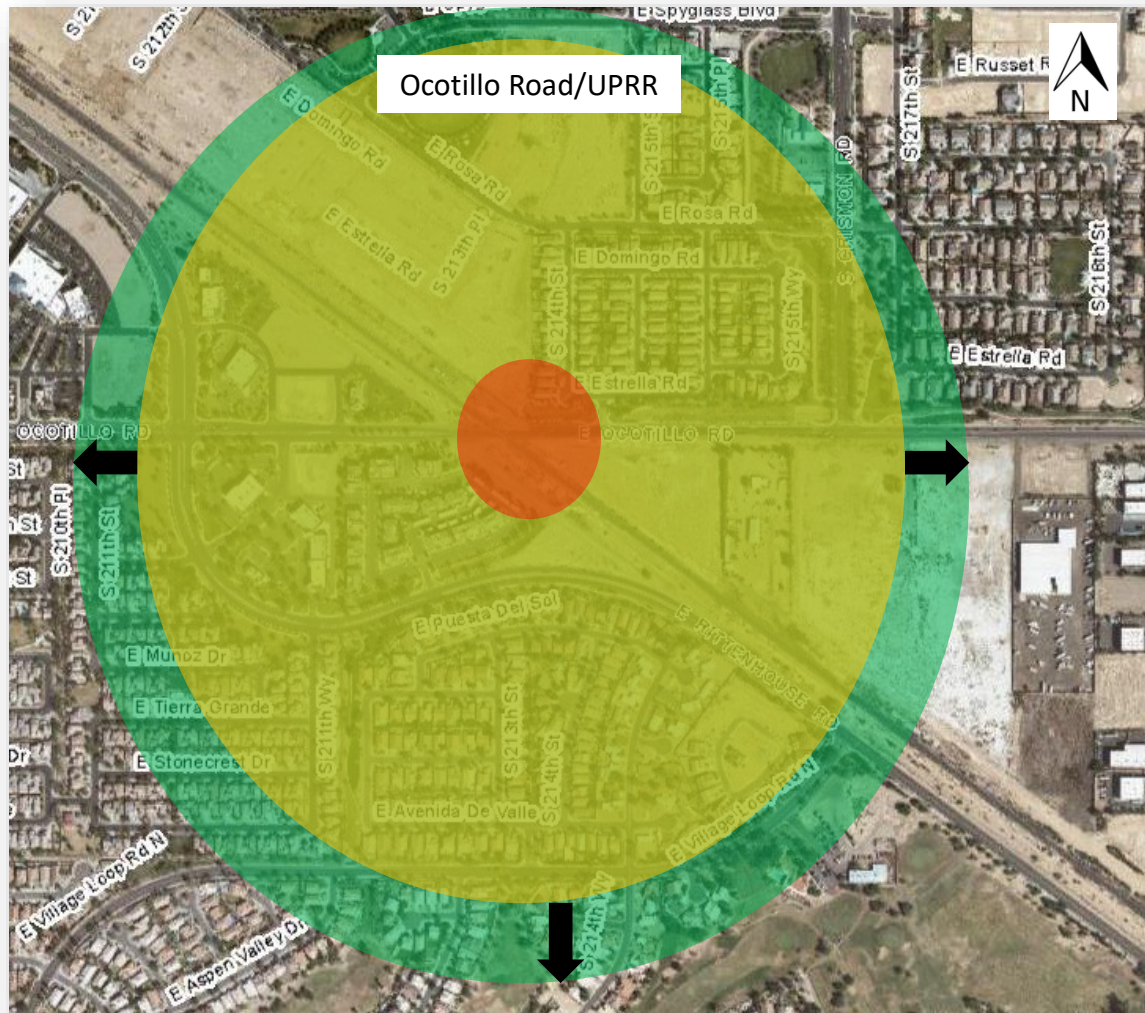
The maximum volume level for the train horn is 110 decibels, the minimum sound level is 96 decibels.

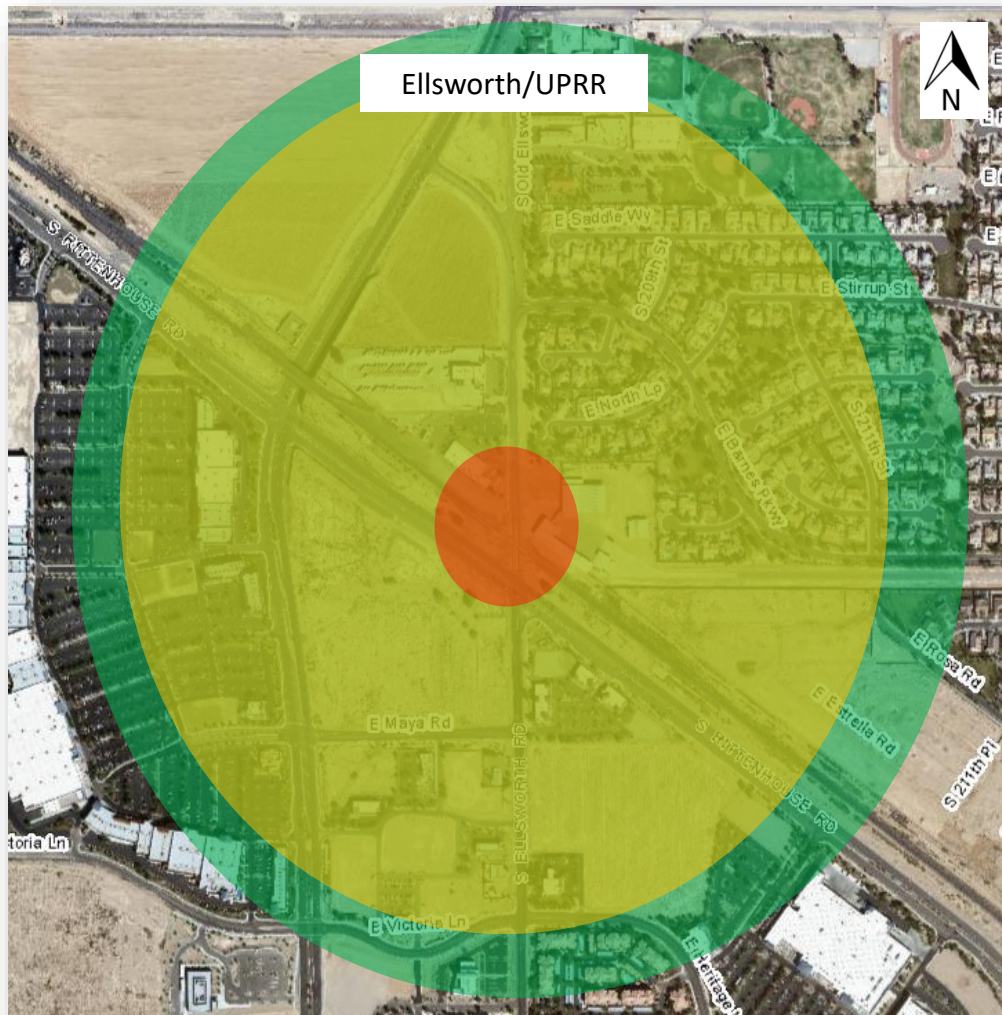
Source: Federal Railroad Administration

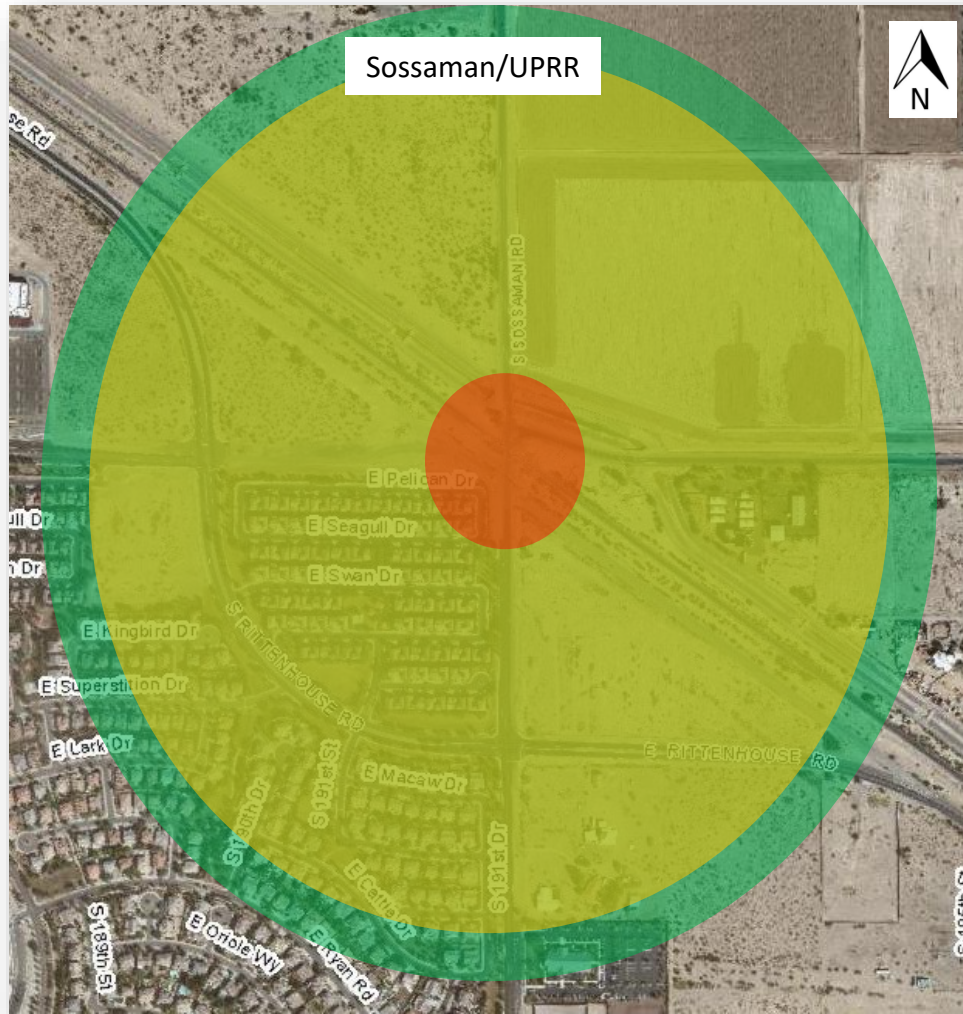
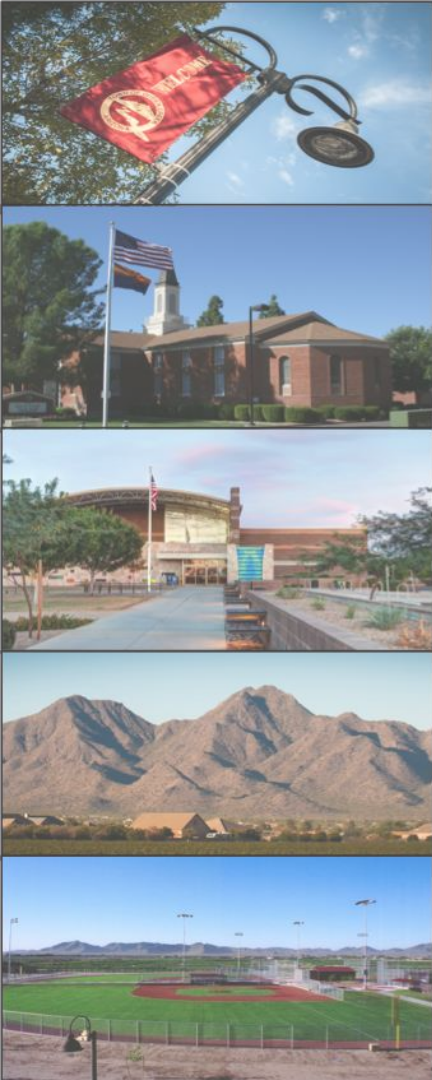


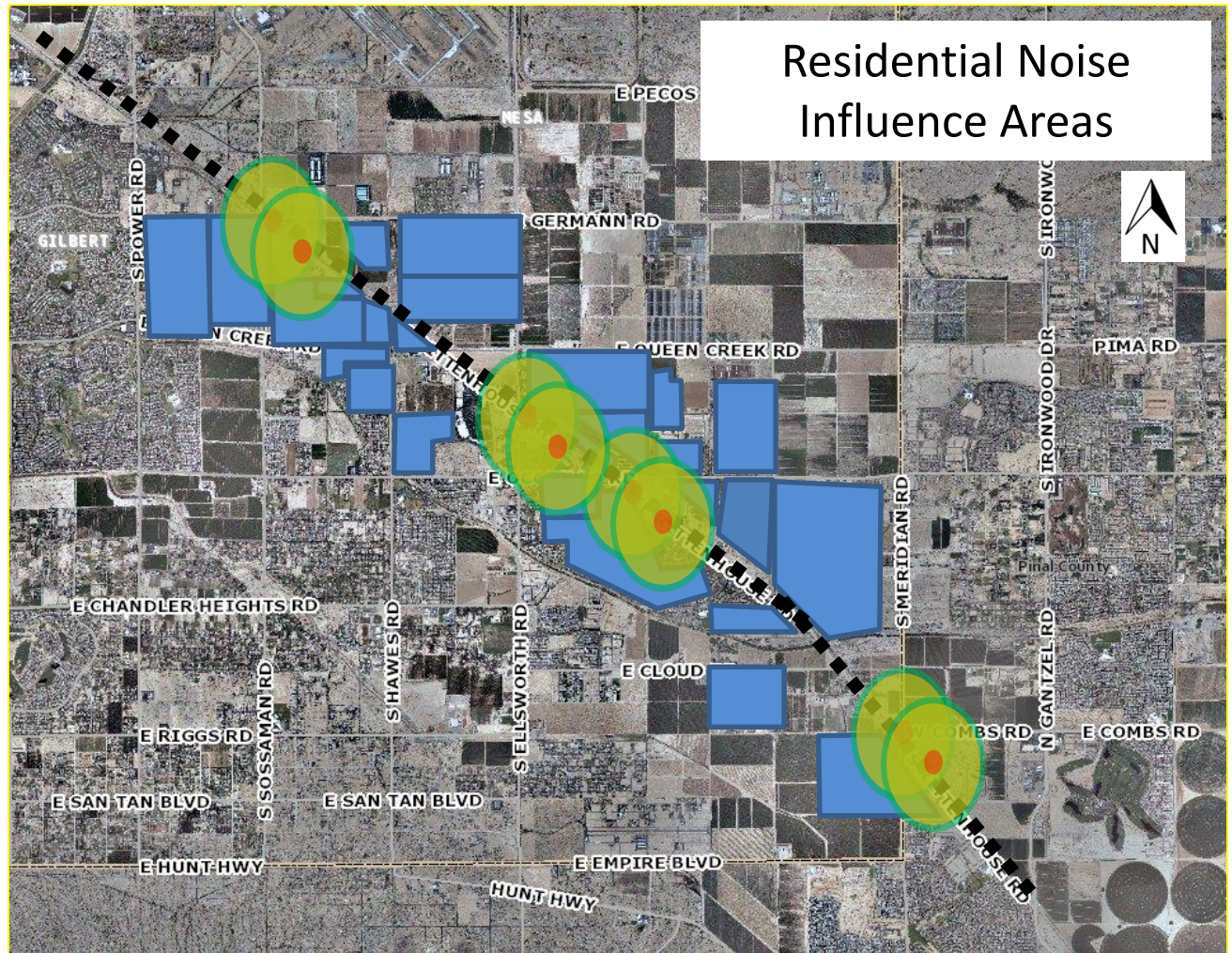


Source: American Public Works Association







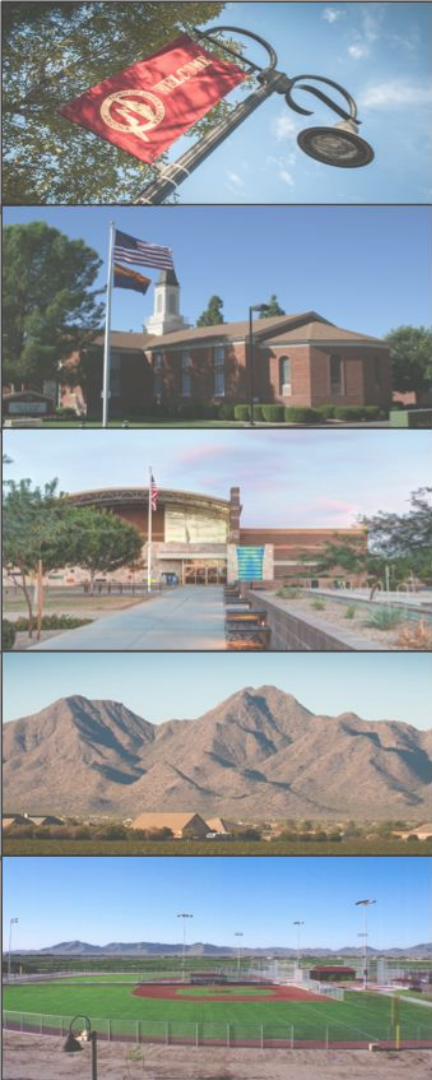


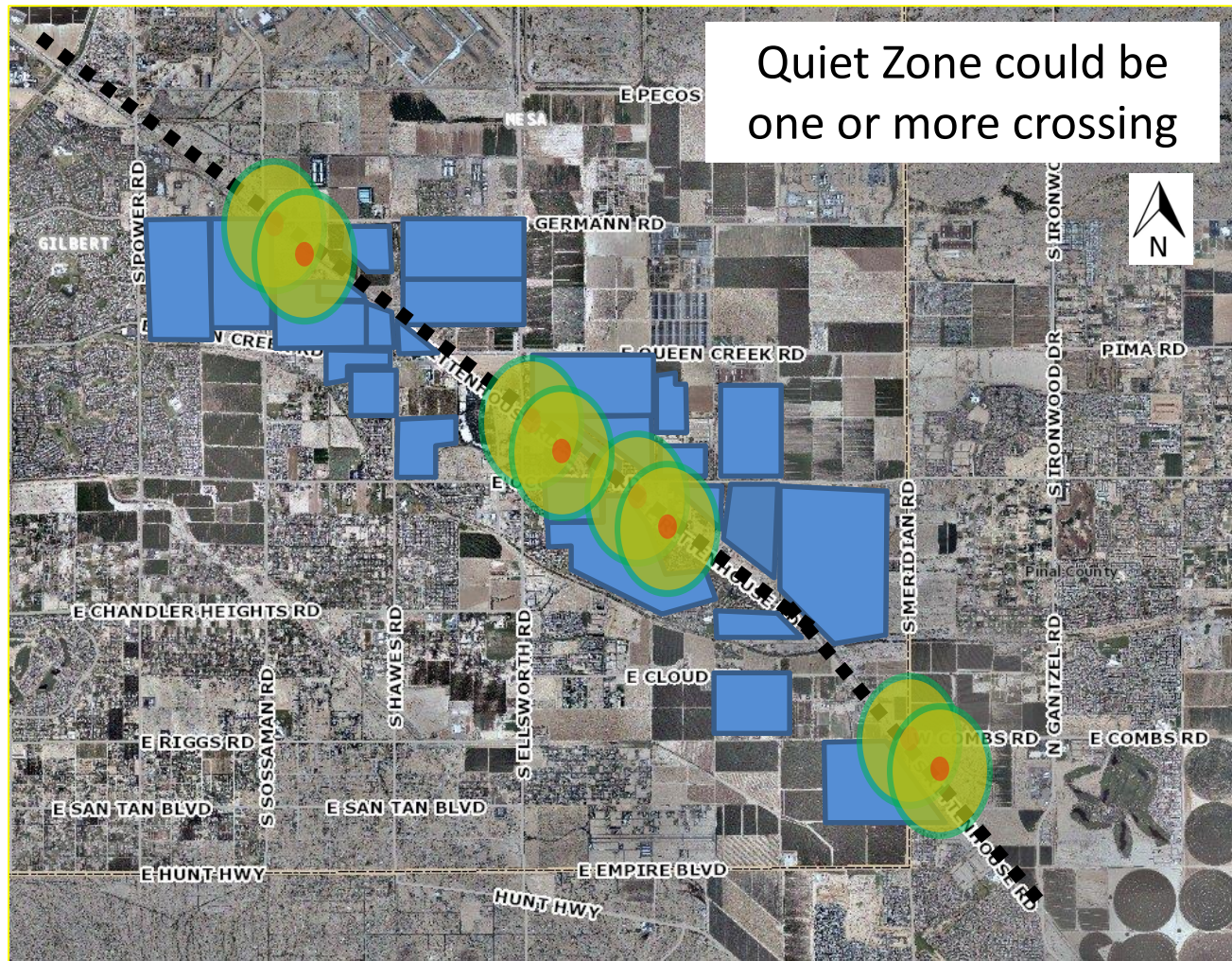
# Railroad Quiet Zones Definition

A quiet zone is an at-grade road crossing area in which the railroad has been directed to cease the routine sounding of the horns when approaching.

Train horns may still be used in emergency situations or to comply with other Federal regulations or railroad operating rules.

Localities desiring to establish a quiet zone are first required to mitigate the increased risk caused by the absence of a horn.







# Railroad Quiet Zones Process

1. Site visit with Diagnostic Team
  - Site must be at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile in length
2. Comply with Diagnostic Team's safety measure recommendations
3. Update the crossing inventory with Federal Railroad Administration
4. Submit notice of intent to create quiet zone
5. Determine the Quiet Zone Risk Index (QZRI)
  - Must be less than National Significant Risk Threshold (NSRT)
6. Install required signage (If  $QZRI \leq NSRT$ )
7. Submit Notification of Quiet Zone to FRA



# Railroad Quiet Zones Estimated Cost

Ocotillo and Combs Road crossings: \$300k – 500k

Ellsworth and Sossaman Road Crossings: \$750k - \$1.5m





**Questions/Comments**