



Sikeston Scanner

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Railroad Quiet Zone Project Revisited

During its July 25 Work Session, the Sikeston City Council was presented with engineering estimates for infrastructure improvements required to implement a railroad quiet zone.

Current Federal regulations require trains to sound their horns three times prior to each street/rail crossing. A group of citizens residing along Sikeston's Burlington Northern Railroad tracks find this safety procedure disturbing and have contacted the City Council requesting the creation of a railroad quiet zone. Under the parameters of this program, once the city constructs required physical barriers at railroad crossing, the railroad will limit the use of their horns while within city limits.

Under the plan presented by the City's consulting engineer, concrete street medians, new crossing gates and guard railings will be installed at the Salcedo Road, Malone Avenue and Murray Lane crossings. The City's cost to complete this work is \$340,000, and will result in some permanent street and private drive closures. As a condition of the agreement, Burlington Northern will require the closing of the William Street railroad crossing. Once the quiet zone is implemented, train engineers will retain the authority to sound their horns should they feel it is warranted.

Council has scheduled a public hearing on the implementation of a quiet zone during the 5 PM, Monday, September 12 Council meeting.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

SIKESTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2011

5:00 PM
105 East Center Street, Sikeston, Missouri

PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Creation of Community Improvement District by
Midtown Village Shopping Center

Other items as may be determined during the course
of the meeting.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

AUGUST –SEPTEMBER 2011

Meeting dates and times are subject to change

Monday, August 1

4:30 PM – Library Board of Trustees

5:00 PM – Regular City Council Meeting

Monday, August 8

Noon – Housing Authority Commission

5:15 PM – Park Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 9

11:30 AM – DED Executive Board Meeting

4:00 PM – BMU Commission Meeting

Tuesday, August 16

4:00 PM – Planning & Zoning Commission

Thursday, August 18

11:30 AM – Strategic Plan Implementation
Commission Meeting

Tuesday, August 23

4:00 PM – Tourism Advisory Board Meeting

Wednesday, August 24

4:00 PM - Traffic Committee

Monday, August 29

7:15 AM – City Council Work Session

11:30 AM – LCRA Commission Meeting

Monday, September 5

Labor Day – City Offices Closed

Tuesday, September 6

4:00 PM – Planning & Zoning Commission

COMPOST SITE SCHEDULE:

Wed., August 13 – 8 AM - Noon & 1-3:30 PM

Saturday, August 27: 8 – Noon

Sikeston City Council Update

The following issues are being considered by the Sikeston City Council during their August 1 meeting:

Public Hearing: Proposed creation of Community Improvement District (CID) by the owners of Midtowner Village Shopping Center

The owners of Midtown Village Shopping Center are seeking the creation of a Community Improvement District that will encompass this entire shopping center. All stores located in this district will be required to impose an additional sales tax, the proceeds of which will be used to renovate the Malco Trio Cinema and make improvements to the Shopping Center's parking lot. The City Council is seeking citizen input on this project.

\$1.3 Million in MoDOT Grant Funding Acquired for Airport Improvements

Several years ago the Sikeston City Council convened an Airport Advisory Board to establish short and long-term goals for Sikeston's Municipal Airport. This action was taken following the realization that air travel/transportation is vital to economic development in this global economy.

Many of these targeted improvements have been completed through the use of State and Federal funding. With the recent award of approximately \$1.3 million, portions of the parallel taxi-way will be relocated, and new upgraded runway lighting will be installed.



Airport improvements completed include:

- 2005-2006 Erected security fencing around airport perimeter. Funded through \$100,000 Homeland Security Grant
- 2007-2008 Reconstructed 160,000 feet of apron surface using \$600,000 in Federal/State Funding
- 2009-2010 Completed multi-phase airport expansion and improvement project. Approximately \$2 million from Federal Stimulus and Non-Primary Entitlement funds allowed for the relocation of 1,200 feet of taxiway at the southern end of the airport, the relocation of Campanella Drive which runs parallel to the airport, and the removal of obstructions in the runway object-free areas. The runway and connectors were resurfaced and new markings applied.

Remaining goals for Sikeston's airport include construction of a new airport terminal and the addition of hangars.

Back-to-School Safety Tips

With local schools returning to session, here are some safety tips from the American Academy of Pediatrics:

Backpack Safety

- Choose a backpack with wide, padded shoulder straps and a padded back.
- Pack light. Organize the backpack to use all of its compartments. Pack heavier items closest to the center of the back. The backpack should never weigh more than 10 to 20 percent of your child's body weight.
- Always use both shoulder straps. Slinging a backpack over one shoulder can strain muscles.
- Consider a rolling backpack. This type of backpack may be a good choice for students who must tote a heavy load. Remember that rolling backpacks still must be carried up stairs, and they may be difficult to roll in snow.

Back-to-School Safety Tips -- Traveling to and from School

School Bus . . .

- Wait for the bus to stop before approaching it from the curb.
- Do not move around on the bus.
- Check to see that no other traffic is coming before crossing the street.
- Make sure to always remain in clear view of the bus driver.

Car . . .

- All passengers should wear a seat belt and/or an age- and size-appropriate car safety seat or booster seat.
- Your child should ride in a car safety seat with a harness as long as possible and then ride in a belt-positioning booster seat. Your child is ready for a booster seat when she has reached the top weight or height allowed for her seat, her shoulders are above the top harness slots, or her ears have reached the top of the seat.
- Your child should ride in a belt-positioning booster seat until the vehicle's seat belt fits properly (usually when the child reaches about 4' 9" in height and is between 8 to 12 years of age). This means that the child is tall enough to sit against the vehicle seat back with her legs bent at the knees and feet hanging down and the shoulder belt lies across the middle of the chest and shoulder, not the neck or throat; the lap belt is low and snug across the thighs, and not the stomach.
- All children under 13 years of age should ride in the rear seat of vehicles. If you must drive more children than can fit in the rear seat (when carpooling, for example), move the front-seat passenger's seat as far back as possible and have the child ride in a booster seat if the seat belts do not fit properly without it.
- Remember that many crashes occur while novice teen drivers are going to and from school. You should require seat belt use, limit the number of teen passengers, do not allow eating, drinking, cell phone conversations or texting to prevent driver distraction; and limit nighttime driving and driving in inclement weather. Familiarize yourself with Missouri's graduated driver license law.

Stormwater Run-off Pollution Solutions

Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flow into a storm sewer. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged, untreated, into the water bodies we use for swimming, fishing, and in many cases for providing drinking water. These pollutants, in turn, can affect human health and increase drinking water treatment costs.

Residential Solutions . . .

- ✓ **PERMEABLE PAVEMENT**
Traditional concrete and asphalt don't allow water to soak into the ground. Instead these surfaces rely on storm drains to divert unwanted water. Permeable pavement systems allow rain and snowmelt to soak through, decreasing stormwater runoff.
- ✓ **RAIN BARRELS**
You can collect rainwater from rooftops in mosquito proof containers. The water can be used later to water lawn or garden areas.
- ✓ **GRASSY SWALES**
Specially designed areas planted with native plants can provide natural places for rainwater to collect and soak into the ground. Rain from rooftop areas or paved areas can be diverted into these areas rather than into storm drains.
- ✓ **VEGETATED FILTER STRIPS**
Filter strips are areas of native grass or plants created along roadways or streams. They trap the pollutants stormwater picks up as it flows across driveways and streets.



What's happening?

Looking for something to do? Check out these local events.

- SATURDAYS SIKESTON DEPOT FARMERS' MARKET** Legion Square, Downtown Sikeston, 8 AM
Area gardeners, bakers, beekeepers and crafts vendors will be in Legion Square of Historic Downtown Sikeston every Saturday, weather permitting. Enjoy healthy fresh fruits, vegetables, and homemade goodies while shopping to music provided by local musicians.
- AUG. 10-13 JAYCEE BOOTHEEL RODEO** Sikeston Rodeo Grounds, 1220 N. Ingram Road
Top PRCA cowboys and cowgirls will be competing for more than \$100,000 in prize money.
Entertainment by
Wednesday, August 10 – the Xtreme Muzik Tour with Big & Rich with Gretchen Wilson
Thursday, August 11 – Craig Morgan
Friday, August 12 – Pat Green
Saturday, August 13 – Rodney Atkins
Phone 1-800-455-2855 or go to www.sikestonrodeo.com for ticket information
- AUG. 12 JAYCEE BOOTHEEL CELEBRITY GOLF TOURNAMENT**
Bootheel Golf Club. Proceeds will benefit the Justin Cowboy Crisis Fund.
- AUG. 13 JAYCEE BOOTEEL RODEO PARADE**
Parade starts at 10 AM from Sikeston Kindergarten Center, E. Salcedo Road and continues along N. Kingshighway to the Sikeston Depot Museum in Downtown Sikeston.
- AUG. 13 COWBOY UP! ARTS FESTIVAL**, Depot Museum, 116 W. Malone
9 AM-4 PM, Meet the Rodeo Clowns. Enjoy live music, pony rides, petting zoo, arts & craft vendors, and concessions. Special exhibits at the Depot Museum, including the SEMO Explorer Mobile Museum. 1 PM - Local re-enactors conduct a "bank robbery/shoot-out" on the Depot Grounds.
- AUG 13 & 14 BOOTHEEL QUILTERS GUILD QUILT SHOW**, Clinton Community Bldg., 501 Campanella
10 AM-4 PM, Dozens of handmade quilts, wall hangings, and baby quilts will be on display with hand-quilted crafts for sale. Miniature bed turning of antique quilts presented with a history of each. Quilting demonstrations on site.