

QUIET ZONE STUDY



MOORHEAD, MN



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Moorhead is proposing two quiet zones. The first proposed zone affects four crossings along the Moorhead and Prosper subdivisions of the BNSF railway, which follows 20th Street. The second proposed zone affects five crossings along the Otter Tail Valley Railroad, which follows Southeast Main Avenue. These quiet zones would be independent of the existing quiet zones in downtown Moorhead that extend from the Fargo-Moorhead border to 14th Street.

Figure 1 - Vehicle Waiting for Train



The Final Rule on Use of Locomotive Horns at Highway-Rail Grade Crossings includes detailed rules, regulations and requirements to be granted quiet zone status. The City of Moorhead funded a study that stepped through these requirements to develop a proposed improvement plan. This study involved a detailed alternatives evaluation that balanced train-noise reduction, safety risk considerations for motorized and non-motorized traffic and costs to determine the optimal improvement strategy. The proposed strategies are illustrated in Figures 2 and 3 and detailed below.

Table 1 - Key Characteristics of Proposed Quiet Zones

Key Characteristics	BNSF Railroad	OTVR Railroad
Number of Improved Crossings	4	5
Safety Risk Reduction	81%	69%
Parcels that Experience Noise Relief	1,087	1,085
Cost	\$553,000	\$2,090,000

Within the body of the report, improvements were also identified for the OTVR crossing at 40th Avenue as this crossing has impacts to Moorhead residents. These improvements were not included in the recommendations package for this Quiet Zone because this crossing is under Clay County jurisdiction.

Next Steps

The following steps are required to take the proposed quiet zones from planning to reality. Details of each step can be found in the report. In short, this is an arduous process that will take many years.

1. Develop Detailed Layouts of Alternatives
2. Diagnostic Team Meeting
3. Public Input Meeting
4. Implement Minimum Improvements at Oak Way
5. Update US DOT Crossing Inventory Form
6. Provide Notice of Intent of Quiet Zone
7. Apply for Approval of Alternative Safety Measures
8. Develop Plans and Specifications
9. Construction
10. Notice of Quiet Zone Establishment

Figure 2 - Recommended Risk Reduction Method for Proposed BNSF Quiet Zone

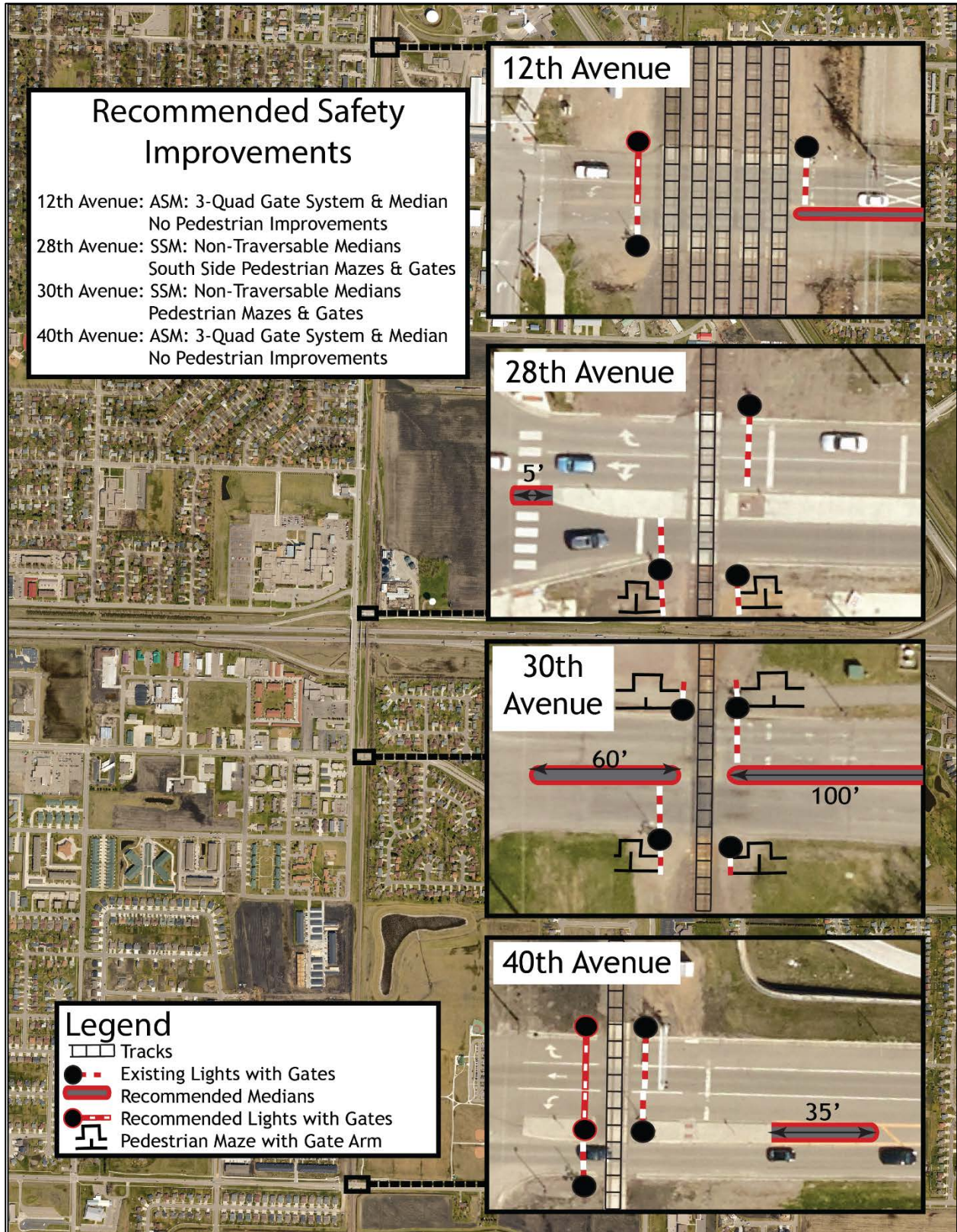


Figure 3 - Recommended Risk Reduction Method for Proposed OTVR Quiet Zone



Figure 4 - Parcels Benefitting from Proposed Quiet Zones

