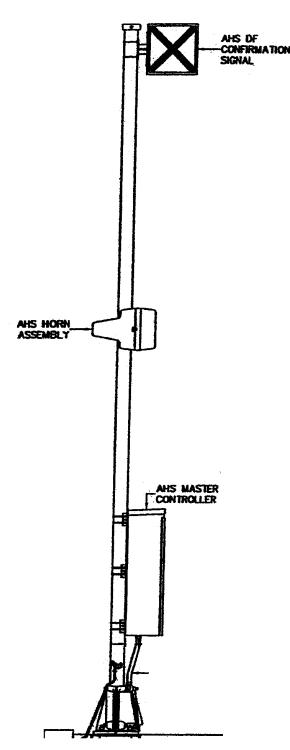


NOW ACTIVE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

The Automated Horn System



WHAT'S THE LATEST?

The Automated Horn System (AHS) was turned on August 19, 2003, at 9 AM. Since that time, the AHS at Tiger Way has been operating with very few problems. However, the AHS at the Yosemite crossing has experienced problems with the horns, wiring, hardware, and railroad detection systems. As of October 8th, all of the problems seem to have been corrected and the AHS at Yosemite is now working correctly.

The sounds of the train mounted horns have now been consistently replaced with the sounds of the stationary AHS horns, and City staff has adjusted the direction and volume of the horns in an attempt to minimize the disturbance to the surrounding neighborhoods.

The City has begun post activation video monitoring and will continue the monitoring through December of this year.

The railroad issued new General Orders on August 19th stating that locomotive engineers should not sound the train-mounted horn when the AHS confirmation signals are visible. The confirmation signals are the flashing X's you see mounted high up the traffic signal poles next to the tracks. If the locomotive engineer cannot see the X's for any reason they are required to blow their train horn. Some of the reasons they might sound the train horn include fog, sun glare, the confirmation signal is blocked by another train, or the confirmation signals have been turned off because the AHS has detected an error with its system. The locomotive engineer can also sound the train horn if they feel an imminent danger may encroach onto the tracks such as cars or pedestrians going around the railroad crossing gates.

The first survey of residents and railroad personnel has been completed. A second survey will be mailed to participants in mid December and results should be available by mid January.

WHO DO I CONTACT?

For additional information, please contact Jason Shykowski of the Public Works/Engineering Department at (916) 746-1300.