

Date: August 2018

**SAFETY AWARENESS PROGRAM
And
IMPLEMENTATION OF ANTI-WHISTLING**

Anti-Whistling at Thirteen (13) Rail Crossings along the Stouffville GO Line

Dear Resident/Business Owner,

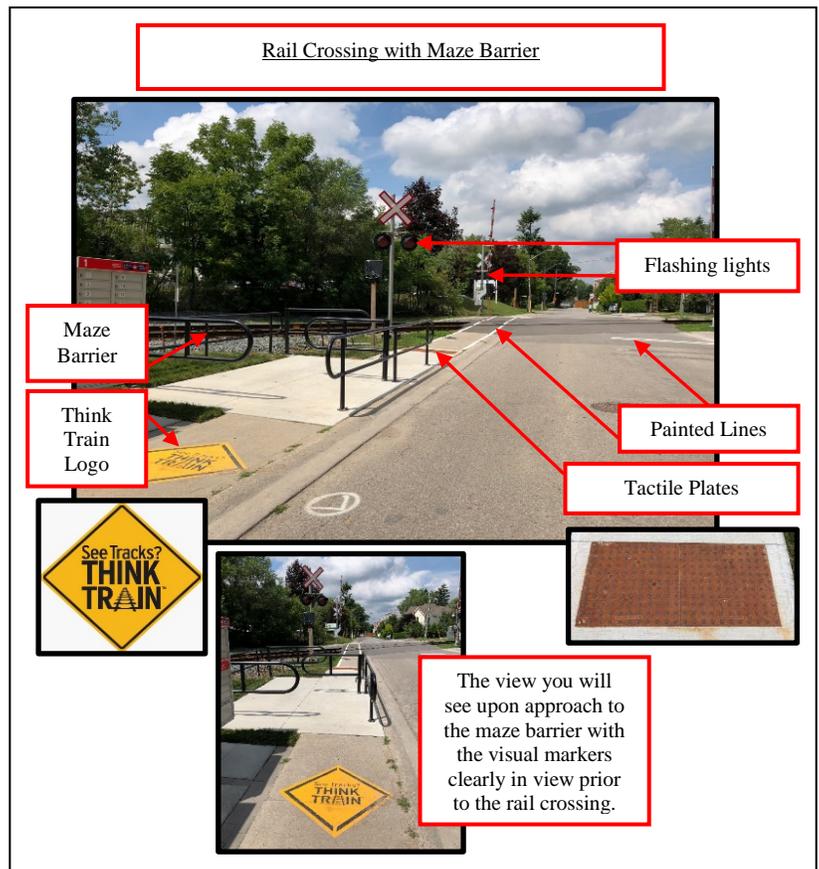
This notice provides information about the safety awareness program and the implementation of anti-whistling, which is to be phased over a period of time in the near future, for the thirteen (13) at-grade rail crossings along the Stouffville GO Line. During this time, trains will sound the whistle at some of the crossings and not at others.

Safety Awareness:

The City of Markham is now entering the Safety Awareness Program stage, and has introduced permanent safety features to inform the public of anti-whistling of the trains at the specific crossings to ensure these crossings are safe and fully accessible. Everyone has to follow the signs and warning features.

The new features installed at identified crossings are provided below:

- Maze barriers (channelized pathway) or pedestrian warning signals with automated active arms; both of which will prompt the public on the sidewalk to stop, wait and stand in a designated area when trains are passing through the location.
- New sidewalk connections to, across, and from the at-grade crossing locations will provide a safe and smooth transition when crossing the location.
- Tactile walking surface indicators (tactile plates), compliant with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) crossing surfaces, are installed in the sidewalk upon approach to the crossings and intended to be detectable underfoot when walking, or with assistive devices (wheelchair, scooters, walkers), strollers, or by a long white cane for visual aid support. The tactile plates will prompt the public to stop and wait when the bells are sounding, the flashing lights are activated and the vehicular and/or pedestrian arms are lowered.



- “See Tracks? Think Train” logo on the sidewalk upon approach to the crossings.
- “No Train Whistle at this Crossing” signage to advise that whistling of the train has been eliminated at that crossing and not to rely on hearing the whistling as an indication of an approaching train.
- Signage will be in place for all pedestrians, motorists and cyclists and will detail the angle of the crossing to the road and sidewalk upon approach to the crossing locations.



- Painted lines across the tracks direct the pedestrians to the other side of the tracks; **STOP** bars on the road inform vehicles to stop when required, and XX signs on the road, in advance of the crossings, inform motorists and cyclists that tracks are ahead.
- Bells and flashing lights are EXISTING features included with existing vehicular gates, (which are larger versions of the pedestrian warning signals). When a train is approaching and/or crossing the location, **the bells will ring and the lights will flash** and the gate arm will lower to stop traffic from entering the rail corridor. Bells and lights will continue to be activated until the gate arm is fully upright after the train has passed. They will be deactivated once the rail tracks are clear of the train. This existing feature will remain in operation.



Implementation of Anti-Whistling:

The Implementation of Anti-Whistling for the thirteen (13) at-grade rail crossings along the Stouffville GO Line will be phased over a period of time. The locations with maze ‘Z’ barriers are phased first, followed by the locations with pedestrian gates.

The following crossings have maze ‘Z’ barriers:

- Eureka Street
- Main Street Unionville
- Kennedy Road North
- Snider Drive
- Castlemore Avenue
- Major Mackenzie Drive
- 16th Avenue

The following crossings have pedestrian signal warning gates:

- Kennedy Road South
- Denison Street
- Highway 7
- McCowan Road
- Main Street Markham
- Bur Oak Avenue

The Phased Implementation of the Anti-Whistling is shown in the map below.



Please feel free to contact the City of Markham Contact Centre at 905.477.5530 or Julie Sharma if you have any questions or concerns regarding this project.

More information regarding this project can also be found on the City of Markham's webpage:

www.markham.ca/antiwhistling

Regards,

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