

CTDOT Announces New Wayside Horn System That Reduces Train Noise Along the Hartford Line Corridor

On Tuesday, January 22, 2019, the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) announced that Connecticut has become the first state in New England to utilize automated horn systems, commonly known as wayside horns, installed in at-grade railroad crossings as part of noise mitigation efforts along the CT**rail** Hartford Line corridor. The horns were put into service on Monday, January 21, 2019, at the Cooper Street crossing, located between Cherry Street and South Colony Street in Meriden. In the coming weeks, wayside horns will be installed at the Pent Highway railroad crossing, located between North Plains Industrial Road and North Colony Road in Wallingford. CTDOT plans to continue the installation of wayside horns at grade crossings along the Hartford Line Rail to reduce noise.

An automated horn system consists of stationary horns mounted on poles at active railroad crossings. The system is designed to direct a consistent audible warning toward the roadway, alerting motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists to an approaching train. The diagram below illustrates the substantial difference in how far noise can be heard from train mounted-horns versus wayside horns (referred to as “Automated Horn System”).