

If you are having a normal conversation you are producing around 60-70 decibels. In the United States, the League of the Hard of Hearing estimates that noise levels at concerts hover between 110 and 120 decibels, the equivalent of a power saw, leaf blower, chain saw, or ambulance siren. The league also notes that [The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health \(NIOSH\)](#) recommends exposure to noise at those levels not exceed one minute 29 seconds.

The Federal Railroad Administration has established that train horns are not to exceed 110 decibels: as stated in the FRA Train Horn Rule Fact sheet published in 2010. Our neighborhood resides within 500 feet of the railroad tracks. The proposed 5,000 seat Outdoor Amphitheater will be also within 500 feet of my home.

The following chart shows how the FRA models the dissipation of noise as distance from the grade crossing increases. This model shows that speech interference can begin to occur approximately 7,000 feet from the track when the train horn is sounding. People outside and closer than 1,500 feet from the track may have to shout to be heard. Outside conversations, closer than 400 feet from the track, usually have to cease until the train passes by.

