

I strongly support the use of Locomotive Horns at all road intersections. In 1987, I was almost killed at a major railroad/road intersection when the signals malfunctioned and did not lower the gates until the engine was in the intersection. Because of heavy snow and night conditions, I was not aware of the engine until the horn was blown as it approached the intersection.

I had not concerned myself with signal malfunction possibility until this incident. I believe that if such a malfunction could happen to me, it could happen to anyone. There are numerous railroad intersections where it is not feasible to detect railroad traffic visually in time to avoid accident in the event of signal malfunction. The visual paths of these intersections are obstructed by buildings, vegetation, signage, etc. In the event of signal malfunction, there will be no way to avoid accident without audible warning by the train's whistle.

In summary, the possibility of signal malfunction is almost never discussed by the news media. These events happen in the real world. The sounding of the locomotive horn is a completely independent means of warning approaching motorists of the hazard. The elimination of use of horns at railroad intersections could reasonably be expected to significantly increase the railroad/vehicular traffic accident rate.