



Central Maintenance Facility Update

Dear CMF Community Members:

Recently we have received several complaints regarding noise emanating from Metrolink locomotives at the Central Maintenance Facility (CMF). Our Operations Team investigated the noise concerns from both this week and last week.

On August 7, 2020, we experienced a locomotive failure on train 686(7) engine 899. The train was moved to CMF for repair that evening. Subsequently, the following morning the equipment was moved to the Service & Inspection (S&I) area for servicing and then to the storage tracks. The move from the was made outside of the normal servicing period. The equipment needed inspection and switching to allow us to reposition it at the Eastern Maintenance Facility for Monday service.

In 2017, Metrolink were made aware of the noise caused by the Tier 4 engines. At that time, we replaced all engine cooling blowers, which were single-speed at the time, with blowers that have high and low speeds. This improvement allowed the blowers to operate primarily at the low speed setting while in the yard.

While the replacement of the engine blowers was a step in the right direction, Metrolink acknowledges that more work can be done to reduce the noise from the locomotive cooling systems. The second round of noise reduction we are working on includes hardware and software updates to adjust the engine cooling processes to minimize the high-speed operation of the radiator fans as much as possible. Investigation of this solution took time to ensure both engine overheat protection, and assess any potential engine Tier 4 emissions impacts. Now that this solution has been identified, Metrolink has worked with the locomotive manufacturer to initiate the work. The required parts have been ordered. However, we do not yet have an implementation schedule, as some of the parts require long production times. However, we will provide that schedule to the community once we have it.

We recognize that hot days like those experienced during the weeks of August 10 and August 17 can be especially challenging. Due to the excessive temperatures in or near the 100s, there are extended periods for which the engine blowers will operate at the higher speeds. Even with the solutions detailed above, we will not be able to eliminate this altogether. However, when we see forecasts for such high temperatures in the future, we will send out an advisory to the community just reminding everyone of the possibility of more noise from the locomotives. We will share any additional information related to the noise concerns expressed this week as soon as we have it. We do apologize for the inconvenience and we appreciate your patience.

Finally, we wish to acknowledge that many of you have asked us to investigate the potential of installing a soundwall(s) to address the community's noise concerns. Our team is investigating that possibility as part of our Facilities Modernization Study that is scheduled for completion by the end of December 2020. We look forward to sharing the results of that investigation with you.

If you have further questions or concerns, please contact Metrolink's Community Relations 24-hour hotline at (213) 452-0400 or email us at communityrelations@scrra.net.



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Best Regards,

Todd McIntyre
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