

**WHATCOM COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**



Jon Hutchings
Director

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March 16, 2018

Kathy Hunter
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Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW
PO Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

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UTIL. AND TRANSP.
COMMISSION

Mailed March 16, 2018

Certified Mail # 7015 0640 0000 6478 8695

Subject: Notice of Intent to Establish a Quiet Zone
**Location: Whatcom County, Washington- Cove Rd.,
DOT #084795Y M.P. 87.655 Proposed Quiet Zone**

This letter is a Notice of Intent for the establishment of a quiet zone at the aforementioned location in accordance with the regulations set forth by the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) Train Horn Rule (49 CFR Part 222).

The railway is currently active 24 hours a day and Whatcom County, at the request of the residents, would like to eliminate the routine sounding of the locomotive horn at Cove Road, DOT #084795Y M.P. 87.655. This will be the only public highway-rail grade crossing included in this quiet zone.

Cove Road is a no outlet road, local access road to Pleasant Bay Road (no outlet road) and serves approximately 20 residences on the westerly side of the crossing. The current Average Daily Traffic (ADT) is 199 vehicles.

The current configuration of the Cove Road public highway-rail grade is two (2) entrance gates and 12 each signal mast mounted warning lights with an intersecting road parallel to the tracks on the west side of the crossing. This crossing configuration prohibits the installation of Supplemental Safety Measures (SSM) to be installed on the west side of the crossing because of the close proximity to the intersection with Pleasant Bay Road. Whatcom County proposes to install 100 feet of mountable medians with reflective traffic channelization devices on the east side of the crossing in accordance with 49 CFR Part 222, Appendix A. On the west side of the crossing, intersecting Pleasant Bay Road restricts the county from installing the full 60 feet requirement in 49 CFR Part 222 for it to be considered a SSM. The County proposes to install 25 feet of mountable medians with reflective traffic channelization devices on the

westerly side of the crossing to be considered as an Alternative Safety Measure (ASM). Please see the preliminary exhibit of the proposed improvements and ASM calculations.

The name and title of the point of contact for Whatcom County during the quiet zone development process is as follows:

Cody Swan
Project Engineer
Design & Construction Section
Whatcom County Public Works
322 N. Commercial St. Suite 301
Bellingham, WA 98225-4042
(360) 778-6265
Email: cswan@co.whatcom.wa.us

Action Required:

Please consider this notice as the beginning date of the required 60-day comment period in the Quiet Zone process. The 60-day comment period for this Quiet Zone will end on May 15, 2018, or when a written comment or "no comment" statement is received from each recipient of this notice.

The following is a list of names and addresses of each party that will receive this notification:

1. Railroads operating over grade crossing:

Stephen Semenick
Manger Public Projects for WA, ID & BC
BNSF Railway
2454 Occidental Avenue So Suite 2D
Seattle, WA 98134

Elizabeth F Klute (LIS), CEM
Northwest Regional Emergency Manager (OR/WA/ID/MT/ND)
Emergency Management & Corporate Security Department
National Railroad Passenger Corporation - Amtrak
187 S Holgate St, Seattle, WA 98134

2. State agency responsible for highway and road safety, and State agency responsibility for grade crossing safety:

Kathy Hunter
Deputy Assistant Director, Transportation Safety
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW
PO Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Please feel free to contact Cody Swan with any questions regarding this topic.

Respectfully,



Joseph P. Rutan, P.E.
County Engineer/Assistant Director

Attachments:

- Preliminary Cove Road Railroad Grade Crossing Improvements exhibit
- Quiet Zone Calculator
 - Crossing Information- Updated vehicles per day and total trains
 - Pre-Improved risk calculations
 - Post-Improved risk calculations
 - ASM Calculations
- Sample photographs of proposed SSM used in Vancouver, WA

Cc via email: Jeffrey Stewart
Grade Crossing Inspector
Region 8 Grade Crossing Manager
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration, Region 8
500 Broadway, Suite 240
Vancouver, WA 98660

Update and Verify Crossing Information

[CONTINUE](#)

Create New Zone

Manage Existing Zones

Log Off

Zone:

Quiet Zone Type : **New 24-hour Quiet Zone**

084795Y COVE RD

084795Y COVE RD

Step by Step Instructions:

Step 1: To add more crossings to the zone Click the ADD CROSSING.

Step 2: To Make changes to the default information, select the crossing from list. Enter the changes in the appropriate box, then click the UPDATE button.

Step 3: To permanently remove a crossing from the zone, select Crossing from list. Click the DELETE CROSSING button.

Step 4: Verify All Crossing Information Provided is correct. Then Click the Check Box, then CONTINUE button .

*** Note:** To see a list of SSMs, click on "Pre-Existing SSM".

* = Not Public At Grade Crossing
** = Closed Crossing

To verify ALL CROSSING INFORMATION

PROVIDED is correct, click on the check box here.

[ADD CROSSING](#)

[DELETE CROSSING](#)

You Must Certify All Crossing Information to Proceed!

Present warn device: Gates

Number of highway vehicles per day: 000140

Total trains: 14

Day through trains : 7

Total Switching Trains : 0

Number of main tracks: 1

Number of other tracks: 0

Urban(U.)/Rural(R.): R.Local

Highways paved: Yes

Maximum timetable speed mph: 45

Number of highway lanes: 2

Number of years accident data: 5

Number of accidents in accident data years: 0

Wayside horn:

Pre-Existing SSM:

[UPDATE](#)

Note: Updating Crossing information on the Quiet Zone Calculator **DOES NOT** update the crossing inventory. Be sure that an updated current and accurate inventory form is also submitted.

Pre-Improved Risk Calculation

Print This Page

Home | Help | Contact | logoff cswan@co.whatcom.wa.us

[Cancel](#)

Change Scenario: COVE_2_52075

[Continue](#)

Crossing	Street	Traffic	Warning Device	Pre-SSM	SSM	Risk	
084795Y	COVE RD	199	Gates	0	0	15,288.69	MODIFY

Create New Zone

Manage Existing Zones

Log Off

* Only Public At Grade Crossings are listed.

[Click](#) for [Supplementary Safety Measures \[SSM\]](#)

[Click](#) for ASM spreadsheet: [ASM](#) * Note: The use of ASMs requires an application to and approval from the FRA.

Step by Step Instructions:

Step 1: To specify New Warning Device (For Pre-Rule Quiet Zone Only) and/or SSM, click the [MODIFY](#) Button

Step 2: Select proposed warning device or SSM. Then click the [UPDATE](#) button. To generate a spreadsheet of the values on this page, click on [ASM](#) button—This spreadsheet can then be used for ASM calculations.

Step 3: Repeat Step (2) until the [SELECT](#) button is shown at the bottom right side of this page. Note that the [SELECT](#) button is shown ONLY when the Quiet Zone Risk Index falls below the NSRT or the Risk Index with Horn.

Step 4: To save the scenario and continue, click the [SELECT](#) button

Summary	
Proposed Quiet Zone:	COVE 2
Type:	New 24-hour QZ
Scenario:	COVE_2_52075
Estimated Total Cost:	\$0.00
Nationwide Significant Risk Threshold:	14723 .00
Risk Index with Horns:	9165.88
Quiet Zone Risk Index:	15288.69

Post Improved Risk Calculations

[Cancel](#)

Change Scenario: COVE 2_52075 ▼

[Continue](#)

Crossing	Street	Traffic	Warning Device	Pre-SSM	SSM	Risk	
084795Y	COVE RD	199	Gates	0	12	3,822.17	MODIFY

Create New Zone

Manage Existing Zones

Log Off

* Only Public At Grade Crossings are listed.

ALERT: Quiet Zone qualifies because SSM has been applied in each crossing.

Click for [Supplementary Safety Measures \[SSM\]](#)

Click for ASM spreadsheet: [ASM](#) * Note: The use of ASMs requires an application to and approval from the FRA.

Step by Step Instructions:

Step 1: To specify New Warning Device (For Pre-Rule Quiet Zone Only) and/or SSM, click the [MODIFY](#) Button

Step 2: Select proposed warning device or SSM. Then click the [UPDATE](#) button. To generate a spreadsheet of the values on this page, click on [ASM](#) button—This spreadsheet can then be used for ASM calculations.

Step 3: Repeat Step (2) until the [SELECT](#) button is shown at the bottom right side of this page. Note that the [SELECT](#) button is shown ONLY when the Quiet Zone Risk Index falls below the NSRT or the Risk Index with Horn.

Step 4: To save the scenario and continue, click the [SELECT](#) button

Summary	
Proposed Quiet Zone:	COVE 2
Type:	New 24-hour QZ
Scenario:	COVE 2_52075
Estimated Total Cost:	\$13,000.00
Nationwide Significant Risk Threshold:	14723 .00
Risk Index with Horns:	9165.88
Quiet Zone Risk Index:	3822.17
Select	

ASM Calculations - Cove Road Railroad Quiet Zone CRP #918015

Whatcom County, Washington-Cliffside Rd., DOT #084821L M.P. 100.299-NOI

2018-03-08

C. Swan

Nationwide Significant Risk Threshold	14,723.00	Quiet Zone Risk Index w/ Proposed ASM must be below this number
Risk Index with Horns	9,165.88	
Quiet Zone Risk Index	15,288.69	

Required Median Length #1	100
Required Median Length #2	60
Installed Median Length #1	100
Installed Median Length #2	25
Effectiveness Rate	41.67%

Quiet Zone Risk Index (using full SSM)	3,822.17	Number Calculated using FRA Calculator and Full SSM Effective Rate
Quiet Zone Risk Reduction (using full SSM)	11,466.52	

Quiet Zone Risk Index w/ Proposed ASM	8,918.40
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Existing Quiet Zone
Vancouver, WA



Existing Quiet Zone
Vancouver, WA

