

**WHATCOM COUNTY  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**



**Jon Hutchings**  
Director

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March 11, 2016

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

*Mailed March 11, 2016*  
*Certified Mail # 7006 2760 0002 7956 1815*

**Subject: Notice of Intent to Establish a Quiet Zone**  
**Location: Whatcom County, Washington- Yacht Club Rd., DOT #084796F M.P. 89.37 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 Yacht Club Rd., DOT #084796F M.P. 89.37. This will be the only public highway-rail grade crossing included in this quiet zone.

Yacht Club Road serves as the only local access road accessing Chuckanut Shore Road and Chuckanut Lane (which are both dead end roads connecting to SR11). There are 32 residences on the westerly side of the Yacht Club Road crossing that predominantly use this crossing. The current Average Daily Traffic (ADT) is 222 vehicles.

The current configuration of the Yacht Club Road public highway-rail grade crossing prohibits the installation of Supplemental Safety Measures (SSM) on both sides of the crossing that are required by the FRA for the creation of a quiet zone. Whatcom County proposes to install mountable medians with reflective traffic channelization devices on the east side of the crossing in accordance to FRA's requirement for a SSM. On the west side of the crossing an intersection at Chuckanut Shore Road/ Chuckanut Lane restricts the county from installing the full 60 feet requirement by the FRA to be considered a SSM. The county proposes that the westerly mountable medians with reflective traffic channelization devices be installed 35 feet in length to be considered as an Alternative Safety Measure (ASM.)

STATE OF WASHINGTON  
UTIL. AND TRAFFIC  
COMMISSION  
2016 MAR 17 AM 11:09  
RECEIVED  
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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

Cody Swan, E.I.T., L.S.I.T.  
Engineering Technician III  
Design & Construction  
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 10, 2016, or when a written comment of a "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:

Richard W. Wagner  
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:

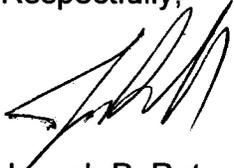
Kathy Hunter  
Deputy Assistant Director, Transportation Safety  
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Attached for your convenience is:

- Preliminary exhibit of the proposed improvements
- Existing Quiet Zone Risk Index Calculations
- Sample photographs of proposed SSM/ASM used in Vancouver, WA.

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

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Rutan', written over a horizontal line.

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

Change Scenario:

Crossing	Street	Traffic/Warning Device	Pre-SSM	SSM	Risk
094796F	YACHT CLUB RD	350 Gates	0	0	19,690.44

**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	
<b>Proposed Quiet Zone:</b>	Yacht Club Rd
<b>Type:</b>	New 24-hour QZ
<b>Scenario:</b>	Yacht Club_47426
<b>Estimated Total Cost:</b>	\$0.00
<b>Nationwide Significant Risk Threshold:</b>	14347 .00
<b>Risk Index with Horns:</b>	11804.82
<b>Quiet Zone Risk Index:</b>	19690.44