



STATE OF WASHINGTON

UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

(360) 664-1160 • TTY (360) 586-8203

January 15, 2016

Nick Hogan, City Administrator  
City of Stevenson  
7121 East Loop Road  
Post Office Box 371  
Stevenson, WA 98648

Sent via Email and First Class Mail

**Re: Docket TR-152333, Proposed Quiet Zone at Russell Avenue  
USDOT 090148C**

Dear Mr. Hogan:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Russell Avenue proposed quiet zone, as described in Docket TR-152333.

On August 8, 2013, Kathy Hunter, railroad safety staff for the Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) participated in a safety diagnostic review of the Russell Avenue crossing. The City of Stevenson (city) initiated the meeting with the intent to identify upgrades to the crossing which could be implemented to qualify the crossing for a quiet zone.

On August 27, 2015, the city filed a petition to upgrade the crossing to four-quadrant gates with LED lights, install vehicle detection loops, add pedestrian bells, and sidewalks. On August 31, 2015, the UTC issued an Order approving the modifications to the Russell Avenue crossing. UTC staff has verified that the crossing upgrades are in compliance with the Order.

On December 9, 2015, the city filed a Notice of Intent to Create a Quiet Zone. As you know, the UTC may comment on the quiet zone proposal, but may not approve or disapprove the proposal since states have been preempted in this area by federal rule 49 CFR Part 222.

Your letter of intent did not identify a length, but it is understood by staff that it will extend one-quarter mile on each side of the crossing to meet the minimum one-half mile requirement referenced in 49 CFR Part 222. Commission staff acknowledges that the Russell Avenue crossing qualifies under the Federal Railroad Administration's requirements as a quiet zone with

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the installation of four-quadrant gates and vehicle detection loops. These upgrades reduce the risk to an acceptable level and therefore makes the Russell Avenue eligible for a quiet zone per 49 CFR 222.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Hunter, at (360) 664-1257 or [khunter@utc.wa.gov](mailto:khunter@utc.wa.gov).

Sincerely,



Steven V. King

Executive Director and Secretary

Cc: Richard Wagner and John Shurson, BNSF Railway Co.  
Christine Adams, Federal Railroad Administration  
Kurt Laird, AMTRAK  
Ahmer Nizam, Washington State Department of Transportation