



Richard W Wagner
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November 7, 2016

Paul Randall-Grutter, PE
Skagit County Public Works
1800 Continental Place
Mount Vernon, WA 98274

Re: County of Skagit, WA – Proposed Quiet Zone

Dear Mr Randall-Grutter:

BNSF is in receipt of the County of Skagit’s (“County”) Notice of Intent dated August 01, 2016 for a new quiet zone (“Quiet Zone”) and did attend the quiet zone diagnostic (“Diagnostic”) held at the crossings on September 23, 2016 with FRA, WUTC and Skagit County. At the outset of this letter, BNSF would like to be clear that we believe that if not properly accounted for with appropriate safety enhancements, the elimination of the train horn can be detrimental to safety.

The train horn is intended to alert the motoring and pedestrian public of train movement. BNSF believes the County’s use of FRA’s train horn rule (“Rule”) should be used as a minimum guideline in its approach to creating a situation where the train horn is eliminated as a safety measure. BNSF understands the following crossings are included as part of the proposed Quiet Zone:

Crossing Name	DOT Number	Crossing Type
Colony Rd	084787G	Public
South Blanchard Rd	084788N	Public
South Legg Rd	084789V	Public
North Legg Rd	084791W	Public

BNSF would like to point out that all participants in the diagnostic review received an extension on comments due to late scheduling of the diagnostic review.

It appears that the calculations from the FRA quiet zone risk calculator as stated in the NOI do not accurately reflect the current status of the crossings in the field. Please submit updated calculator findings.

BNSF understands the following mitigations which the Diagnostic Team notes reflect and were reached with the consensus of all Team members:

- SSM mitigations at Colony Road (084787G) at a minimum of 8-10 inches in height and 100 feet in length at both approaches to the crossing;

- Safety measure mitigations at South Blanchard Rd (084788N) installations of an east approach non-mountable median of 100' in length and on west side approach a non-mountable median of 60' in length constructed to accommodate a residential driveway. Please note: for the west approach median to comply as an SSM, the median length required is 100 feet, otherwise the County can apply for approval of a shorter median as an ASM. Further civil improvements to the road may be required to accommodate the medians and relocation of the existing grade crossing signals may be required dependent upon the new road width.
- SSM mitigation at South Legg Rd 084789V that a non-mountable median curb of 100 feet on both approaches be installed.
- SSM mitigation at North Legg Rd 084791W to work with the County to close the crossing offering a financial contribution towards closure. Additional required civil improvements and signal relocation discussed to allow median installation which should make the closure of South Legg's at-grade crossing an appealing option.

If BNSF can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me or French Thompson, Public Projects Director for BNSF, OOB 3, 2600 Lou Menk Dr, Ft Worth TX 76131-2830 (Office phone 817.352.1549). .

Regards,



Richard W Wagner
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Hard copies via US Mail will follow.

cc:

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