



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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January 18, 2022

Sent by email and First Class mail

Treysea Tate  
Associate Civil Engineer, Rail  
City of Seattle, Department of Transportation  
P.O. Box 34996  
Seattle, WA 98124-4996

**Re: TR-210124 – Notice of Intent to Establish a Railroad Quiet Zone on the BNSF Terminal 5 Industrial Track in Seattle**

Dear Ms. Tate:

On November 12, 2021, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) received notification from the City of Seattle (City) of its intent to establish a railroad quiet zone by public authority designation at nine crossings on industrial track controlled by the BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) serving Terminal 5 in Seattle. The affected crossings include:

USDOT Crossing Number	Road Name
096202N	Chelan Avenue SW
096201G	Private
096197U	Private
977570M	Private
977571U	Private
096193S	Private
096192K	Private
096199H	Spokane Street
095992T	West Seattle Freeway

UTC Staff (Staff) did not participate in the onsite quiet zone reviews of the Seattle Terminal 5 Corridor.

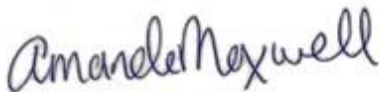
The proposed quiet zone will be in effect 24 hours per day, seven days per week. While the notice provided did not specify length, Staff assumes that the proposed quiet zone will extend one-quarter mile on each side of the crossings, which is the minimum length required by Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 222 – Use of Locomotive Horns at Public Highway-Rail Grade Crossings.

The City proposes to convert private crossing 096197U to a public crossing and install four-quadrant gates and lights as Supplemental Safety Measures (SSMs) to qualify for quiet zone designation. The City also proposes to close the Chelan Avenue SW public crossing (096202N) to vehicular traffic and close two private crossings (096201G and 977570M). Access across private crossing 977571U will be restricted to United Motor Freight and Riverside Mills employees and customers. The two remaining private crossings (096193S and 096192K) will remain open and the City will install MUTCD compliant pavement markings and warning signs. The Spokane Street (096199H) and West Seattle Freeway (095992T) crossings are grade-separated crossings and will not receive upgrades.

Under current federal rules, the UTC may comment on quiet zones but it does not have the authority to approve or deny them. Staff acknowledges that, based on implementation of the proposed SSMs, the City believes these crossings will qualify for designation as a quiet zone. Staff supports the proposed SSMs and other proposed improvements, as they will improve safety and reduce the possibility of motorists driving around downed crossing gates when a train is approaching.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. Please contact Mike Turcott, Transportation Planning Specialist, at (360) 664-1119 or by email at [mike.turcott@utc.wa.gov](mailto:mike.turcott@utc.wa.gov) if you would like additional information.

Sincerely,



Amanda Maxwell  
Executive Director and Secretary

cc: Jeffrey Stewart, Federal Railroad Administration  
Federal Railroad Administration, Office of Safety, Washington DC  
Stephen Semenick, BNSF  
Patrick Sullivan, AMTRAK