

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-44

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON,
SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RAILROAD "QUIET ZONES" WITHIN
CITY LIMITS**

WHEREAS, federal regulation 49 CFR Part 222 requires the use of locomotive horns at public highway-rail crossings, but provides opportunities for localities nationwide to mitigate the effects of train horn noise by establishing "quiet zones" within their jurisdictions in accordance with the rules and procedures administered by the Federal Railroad Administration ("FRA"); and

WHEREAS, a quiet zone is a section of rail line at least one-half mile in length that contains one or more consecutive public highway-rail grade crossings at which locomotive horns are not routinely sounded when trains are approaching the crossings; and

WHEREAS, quiet zones reduce, but do not eliminate, the use of train horns, which may be sounded in emergency situations or to comply with other railroad rules even within quiet zones; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a quiet zone generally requires the installation of supplementary safety measures ("SSMs") or alternative safety measures ("ASMs") at railroad crossings, which may consist of full-width crossing gates, median dividers, or other devices or physical improvements designed to mitigate the additional risk of collision associated with eliminating routine horn sounding at rail crossings; and

WHEREAS, Council finds that it is in the public interest to reduce train horn noise through the establishment of railroad "quiet zones" within Bellingham city limits as authorized by federal law.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF BELLINGHAM THAT:**

Section 1.

It is declared to be in the public interest to reduce train horn noise through the establishment of railroad "quiet zones" within Bellingham city limits as authorized by federal law, 49 CFR Part 222.

Section 2.

The mayor is authorized to take all actions necessary to establish railroad "quiet zones" within Bellingham city limits in accordance with 49 CFR Part 222 and applicable law.

PASSED by the Council this 15th day of December, 2014.

Teng Bonomane
Council President

APPROVED by me this 30th day of December, 2014

Kelli Lewis
Mayor



ATTEST:

Brian Kershaw
Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Matt Stamps
Office of the City Attorney

Published:

n/a