

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL AGENDA BILL

NO. 2017-043A

CLEARANCES	Initial	Date	Date Received in Council Office	Agenda Date	Assigned to:
Originator: James Karcher, P.E.	<i>gpk</i>	1-25-17	RECEIVED JAN 31 2017 WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL	02/07/2017	Public Works Committee/Council
Division Head: Joe Rutan, P.E.	<i>[Signature]</i>	1-26-17			
Dept. Head: Jon Hutchings	<i>[Signature]</i>	1-26-17			
Prosecutor: Daniel Gibson	<i>[Signature]</i>	01/26/17			
Purchasing/Budget: Brad Bennett	<i>[Signature]</i>	1/27/17			
Executive: Jack Louws	<i>[Signature]</i>	1/30/17			

TITLE OF DOCUMENT:

Resolution to amend CRP No. 916008, Yacht Club Road Railroad Quiet Zone.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Memo
2. Resolution
3. Project Narrative

SEPA review required? () Yes (x) NO
SEPA review completed? () Yes (x) NO

Should Clerk schedule a hearing? () Yes (x) NO
Requested Date:

SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE: (If this item is an ordinance or requires a public hearing, you must provide the language for use in the required public notice. Be specific and cite RCW or WCC as appropriate. Be clear in explaining the intent of the action.)

Public Works is requesting the adoption of a resolution granting legislative authority to: 1) proceed with a petition to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) for the improvements to the Yacht Club Road at-grade railroad crossing; and 2) for authorization to use Public Works "County Forces" to perform the proposed work.

COMMITTEE ACTION:**COUNCIL ACTION:**

Related County Contract #:

Related File Numbers:

Ordinance or Resolution Number:

Please Note: Once adopted and signed, ordinances and resolutions are available for viewing and printing on the County's website at: www.co.whatcom.wa.us/council.

Jon Hutchings
Director



Joseph P. Rutan, P. E.
County Engineer/Assistant Director
322 N. Commercial Street, Ste 301
Bellingham, WA 98225-4042
Phone: (360) 778-6210
Fax: (360) 778-6211

MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Jack Louws, Whatcom County Executive and
The Honorable Whatcom County Council

Through: Jon Hutchings, Director *JH*

From: Joseph P. Rutan, P.E., County Engineer/Assistant Director *JPR*
James P. Karcher, P.E., Engineering Manager *gpk*

Date: February 7, 2017

Re: Yacht Club Road Railroad Quiet Zone; CRP No. 916008
Resolution for Legislative Authority and use of "County Forces"

Please find attached for your review and approval, a resolution for the amendment of CRP No. 916008 associated with the Yacht Club Road Railroad Quiet Zone.

Requested Action

Public Works is requesting the adoption of a resolution granting legislative authority to: 1) proceed with a petition to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) for the improvements to the Yacht Club Road at-grade railroad crossing; and 2) for authorization to use Public Works "County Forces" to perform the proposed work.

Project Background

Following a presentation to the County Council Finance Committee on January 24, 2017, the Whatcom County Council directed Public Works to move forward with the process to establish a quiet zone railroad crossing at Yacht Club Road. The next step of the process in establishing the aforementioned quiet zone is to petition the UTC to construct the Federal Railroad Administration's approved Supplemental Safety Measure (SSM) and Additional Safety Measure (ASM) design.

The Yacht Club Road Railroad Quiet Zone appears as Item #15 on the 2017 Annual Construction Program.

Funding Amount and Source

The construction cost estimate for the installation of the Additional Safety Measures is approximately \$42,615 for the current design. Only preliminary engineering funds, in the amount of \$5,000, exist in the project budget; therefore, Public Works' Accounting Division will prepare a supplemental budget request. An amount of \$50,000 will be used for the budget supplement due to unforeseen contingencies or minor changes to the current design.

It is likely that the Chuckanut Bay Community Association will be asked by the Whatcom County Council to fund the construction of the "Additional Safety Measures (ASM)" required for a Quiet Zone.

Please contact Joe Rutan or Roland Middleton at extensions 6219 and 6212, respectively, if you have any questions or concerns regarding this topic.

SPONSORED BY: _____

PROPOSED BY: Public Works

INTRODUCTION DATE: _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____

AMENDING CRP No. 916008, AND AUTHORIZING PUBLIC WORKS TO: 1)
PROCEED WITH PETITIONING THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE YACHT CLUB
ROAD AT-GRADE RAILROAD CROSSING; AND 2) CONSTRUCT IMPROVEMENTS
USING PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT'S "COUNTY FORCES".

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Whatcom County Public Works Department that alteration in the method and manner of the existing Yacht Club Road at-grade crossing and its approaches is required by public safety and should occur in the form of additional safety measure improvements; and

WHEREAS, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission requires a petition for such alteration of the Yacht Club Road at-grade railroad crossing, per Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 81.53.060; and,

WHEREAS, said RCW 81.53.060 requires legislative authority be invoked as a condition of the petition process, and the Whatcom County Council is said legislative authority; and,

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Council unanimously adopts the position that the alteration in the method and manner of the existing crossing and its approaches is required by public safety, supports the plans for the proposed improvements at the said crossing, and desires that the Whatcom County Public Works Department submit the required petition on its behalf to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Public Works Department is required to inform and receive approval from the Whatcom County Council before utilizing "County Forces" in capital construction project; and,

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Public Works Department desires to have the option to utilize "County forces" in the construction of additional safety measures at the Yacht Club Road at-grade crossing; and,

WHEREAS, upon the request of the Whatcom County Public Works Department and the recommendation of the County Executive, the Whatcom County Council, in a separate Council Action, will also be supplementing the project budget for the additional funds needed for construction of the proposed improvements;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Whatcom County Council as the legislative authority of the County to request that Public Works submit a petition on its behalf to the Utilities and Transportation Commission for the Yacht Club Road at-grade railroad crossing improvements; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Whatcom County Public Works Department's forces are authorized to perform the proposed railroad crossing improvements.

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2017.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Dana Brown-Davis, County Clerk

Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Daniel L. Gibson
Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor

**Yacht Club Rd RR Quiet Zone
CRP # 915008**

Construction Funding Year(s): 2017 / 2018

Project Narrative:

This project is located in Section 30, T37N, R3E. This project proposes to upgrade the BNSF crossing to "Quiet Zone" standards. This project is listed #R30 on the 2017-2022 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program.

Project Status: Federal Application is submitted to the Federal Railroad Administration for approval; construction date pending approval and funding source.

Total Estimated Project Cost: \$50,000

Expenditures to Date: \$5,000

Funding Sources:

Federal

State

Local

\$50,000

Environmental Permitting	TBD
Right-of-Way Acquisition (Estimate)	TBD
County Forces (Estimate)	\$50,000

