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## Train Whistle Cessation

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**References:**        *Railway Safety Act, RSC 1985 c. 32*  
                         *Transport Canada's Canadian Rail Operating Rules*  
                         *Transport Canada's Grade Crossing Standards*

**Cross-reference:**    SER-009-017 Traffic Control Devices

### Policy Statement

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The safety of road users is the primary factor when evaluating whistle cessation locations. Strathcona County will follow the federal requirements to implement train whistle cessation at any at-grade train crossing in accordance with the guidelines of requests for whistle cessation.

### Purpose

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The purpose of the policy is to ensure the principles of effective risk management, planning, and engineering guide and safety level; required to implement whistle cessation at each at-grade train crossing; are vigorously followed.

This policy is intended to guide decisions on the cessation of train whistles for specific at-grade train crossings under Strathcona County's jurisdiction in order to provide a balance between federal train crossing requirements and the safe, efficient operation of the road system.

### Definitions

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At-grade crossing means a location where a roadway passes across a rail line at the same elevation. There is no difference in height between the roadway and the rail line. Vehicles are required to stop and yield to the crossing train.

Benefitting Area means the area defined by the linear distance away from the at-grade crossing as show in Figure 1.

Benefitting Population means the households within benefitting area, and must include at least 50 households to qualify for train whistle cessation.

### Guidelines

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#### General

The final whistle cessation decision is made and reviewed by Transport Canada.

The principles of effective risk management, planning, and engineering will guide the required level of advanced warning required to implement whistle cessation at each at-grade train crossing.

- The safety of road users will be a primary factor in evaluating whistle cessation locations.
- The level of advance warning traffic control is directly related to the road classification, volume of vehicles, pedestrians, and rail traffic as outlined by Transport Canada.

### **Request for Whistle Cessation**

Strathcona County residents living within benefitting area may contact Administration and request train whistle cessation.

A whistle cessation safety assessment will be completed by Strathcona County and the Railway Company according to Transport Canada's *Grade Crossing Standards*.

All whistle cessation locations will be assessed by the County with respect to location, design, and construction standards.

### **Whistle Cessation for Specific Crossings**

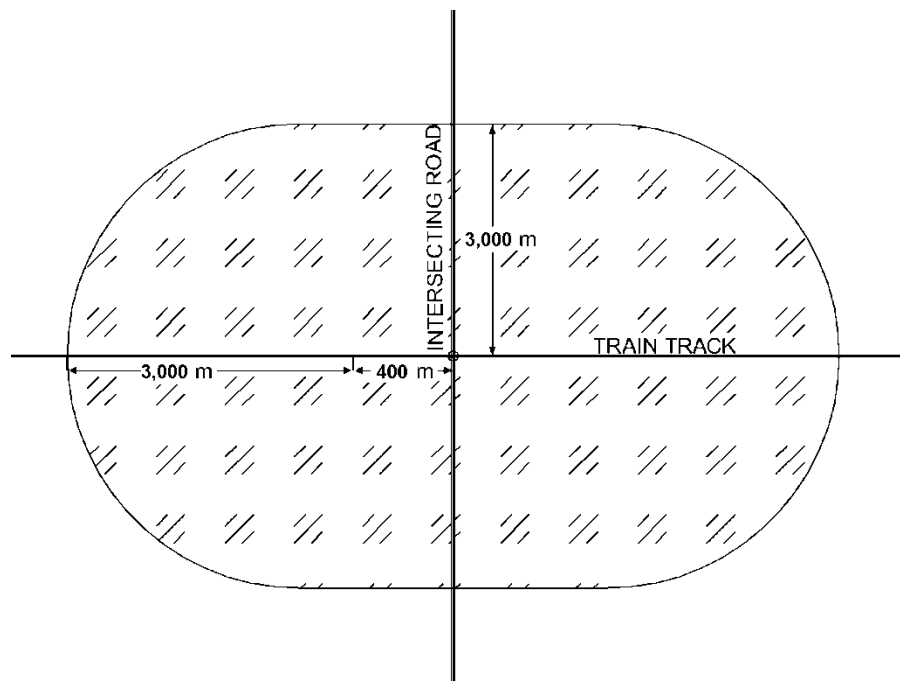


Figure 1- Train Whistle Cessation Benefitting Area (NTS)

- For an at-grade train crossing where the benefitting area encompasses at least the required benefitting population, Council may consider, on a priority and availability-of-funds basis, the construction of such advanced warning measures required by Transport Canada.
- Strathcona County will notify the owner of the rail line, as well as all residents in the Benefitting Area, of its intention to present a whistle cessation request to Council for the specific at-grade rail crossing.

Note: Once whistle cessation has been approved by Transport Canada, the authorized train operator retains the overruling authority to sound the whistle in the event of an imminent safety concern at the operator's discretion.

## **Policy Record**

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**Last Review Date:** September 11, 2018

**Replaces:** N/A

**Administrative Review:** Transportation Planning and Engineering