

Train Whistle Cessation Resolution**Report Purpose**

To have Council pass a whistle cessation resolution at the CN Rail crossing at Highway 824 / Range Road 222.

Recommendation

That the resolution set out in Enclosure 1 to apply whistle cessation to the grade crossing at CN Mile 250.25 – Highway 824 be passed.

Council History

January 11, 2011 – Council directed Administration to review developing a policy to minimize train whistles

April 26, 2011 – A verbal status report was provided to Council to define the progress Administration had made with respect to research and analysis of train whistle minimization

July 12, 2011 – Council approved a motion to postpone this item to August 16, 2011 in order to research additional information

August 16, 2011 – Council directed administration to prepare a train whistle minimizing policy

April 24, 2012 – Council directed administration to revise the Train Whistle Cessation Policy and present at the end of June 2012

July 17, 2012 – Council approved the Municipal Policy SER-013-004: Train Whistle Cessation

December 11, 2012 – Council approved the 2013 Capital Budget which included the 2013 Ardrossan Train Whistle Cessation project

Strategic Plan Priority Areas

Economy: n/a

Governance: Cooperative partnership with community, and business

Social: Helping, caring and safe community

Culture: n/a

Environment: n/a

Other Impacts

Policy: SER-013-004 Train Whistle Cessation, SER-009-017 Traffic Control Devices

Legislative/Legal: Transport Canada – *Railway Safety Act*

Interdepartmental: Capital Planning and Construction, Planning and Development Services

Summary

The residents of Ardrossan and those living along the CN Rail Wainwright subdivision line have expressed concerns over the increasing number of trains traveling along the corridor and the lowered quality of life, as a result of the train whistles sounding at all hours of the day and night. As a result, the request was put forward to request train whistle cessation at the Highway 824 crossing. As per the Train Whistle Cessation Policy and the Transport Canada *Railway Safety Act*, Strathcona County is proposing to pass a resolution to have whistle cessation implemented on the Wainwright subdivision crossing as listed above.

The above-mentioned crossing has been inspected and conforms to the requirements of the *Railway Safety Act* and *Grade Crossing Regulations* and *Grade Crossing Standards* of Transport Canada for whistle cessation. Additional safety features and devices were installed at the crossing, including line painting, signs and fencing as was required. In addition, the process for engaging the specified stakeholders has also been followed with the Teamsters and Autoworker's Unions being notified, as well as the local residents through media communications. As the crossing is an Alberta Transportation road, they too have been engaged and a working agreement has been developed in order to manage the maintenance of the fence. CN Rail has been a major contributor and Strathcona County is pleased with the collaborative effort made throughout the process.

Should Council pass the resolution to create whistle cessation at the crossing listed, CN Rail will have 30 days to notify Transport Canada of the whistling cessation resolution for implementation. Strathcona County will hereafter have the responsibility to maintain the fence and safety improvements related to the *Grade Crossing Regulations* and *Grade Crossing Standards*, as established by Transport Canada.

Communication Plan

Media release, website update, signs on site

Enclosure

- 1 Train Whistle Cessation Resolution
- 2 Train Whistle Cessation Map