



Municipality of Anchorage

Office of the Mayor

Ethan Berkowitz, Mayor

September 15, 2017

Bill O'Leary
President of Alaska Railroad
P.O. Box 107500
Anchorage, Alaska 99510-7500

Mark Luiken
Commissioner DOT&PF, ARRC Board
P.O. Box 112500
Juneau, Alaska 99811-2500

Sam Cotten
Commissioner ADF&G
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Cheryl Bonebrake
Federal Railroad Administration
901 3rd Ave NW
Minot, North Dakota 58703

Dear Sirs and Madam,

The Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) formally requests your participation in a quiet zone evaluation of the road crossing of the Alaska Railroad at the Department of Fish and Game's Rabbit Creek Rifle Range. The goal is to eliminate the disruption to the community by the horn sounding as the train approaches the crossing. I have appointed Stephanie Mormilo, MOA Traffic Engineer (343-8070) as our point person for this project. I request your participation in evaluating alternatives to create a quiet zone at this location including engineering options that do not compromise safety, funding options, and designation of leaders to champion this project.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (AKDF&G) is the owner of the crossing and under Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) rules is the one financially responsible for costs incurred by the railroad in operating the road crossing. The FRA requires the MOA and the DOT&PF to participate in the process. Consequently, it is clear that we must create a team that can collaborate on a solution to the noise issues at this site.

As a minimum, I request that the evaluation consider options such as "no horn." This solution sufficed for Oceanview and C Street at Raspberry Road, configuring the crossing so that vehicles could not bypass the crossarms. This might not be feasible for southbound traffic because the rail curve to the north limits sight distance. In that case, a wayside horn might be the required solution for southbound rail traffic. However a hybrid configuration of both solutions would only require the wayside horn for southbound traffic. Other solutions should also be evaluated, but in no case should safety be compromised. Knowing the team members involved, I trust the team can work together to make this a reality for the community.

Sincerely,

Ethan Berkowitz

cc: Stephanie Mormilo, MOA Traffic Engineer
John Weddleton, Assembly Representative for South Anchorage
Suzanne LaFrance, Assembly Representative for South Anchorage
Adam Lees, President of Rabbit Creek Community Council