

**Railroad Quiet Zone
Citizen Advisory Panel
Meeting #1
Notes**

Location: Lyle Room. Wells Fargo Bldg
99 East Broadway, Suite 400

Time: 3 pm to 5 pm, November 16, 2015

The Railroad Quiet Zone Citizen Advisory Panel held its first meeting from 3 pm to 5 pm in the Lyle Conference Room.

Citizen Advisory Panel (Attendees):

- Sam Hahn (Whiteaker Community Council)
- Sue Wolling (downtown resident, Street Repair Review Panel, cyclist)
- Ron Saylor (west side business owner)
- Jonathan Brandt (residents – at large)
- Bill Randell (Planning Commission)
- Doug Partridge (Downtown Neighborhood Association; alternate for Sherrill Necessary)
- Brittany Quick-Warner (Chamber of Commerce)
- Tom Moseman (Oakshire Brewery, west side business; alternate for Jeff Althouse)
- Casey Barrett (Fifth Street Market, east side business)
- Eugene Organ (Lane Independent Living Alliance)

Citizen Advisory Panel members not in attendance:

- Kelsey Weilbrenner (Ya-Po-Ah Terrace, east side residents)

City of Eugene Staff Attendees:

- Mark Schoening, City Engineer
- Rob Inerfeld, Transportation Planning Manager
- Tom Larson, Traffic Operations Manager
- Eric Jones, Public Affairs Manager
- Kerry Werner, Project Manager
- Rebecca Brien, Civil Engineer Intern

Members of the Public Attending

- Brad Foster, Whiteaker
- Jennifer Hoover, Whiteaker
- Larry Deckman (will be Jonathan Brandt's alternate)
- ** One other name not recorded.
- Sarah Madison from KMTR-TV briefly attended the meeting

Introduction: Eric Jones

Eric started the meeting with an overview of how the City selected the panel members. It is the intent to have a panel that represents a cross section of Eugene and is inclusive of the diverse interests that are affected by train horn sounding. Eric also stated the expectation that panel members would

communicate the panel's findings to their constituencies and that concerned citizens would communicate issues through their represented panel member.

Eric said COE staff did not plan to schedule public comment periods during the meetings, to give the panel members enough time to process the materials for each meeting, although that could be an option if the panel chose to receive comments at committee meetings. Staff is preparing to receive comments by email, through the quiet zone website, and through the public engagement plan (to be presented later in the agenda).

Review of Agenda: Rob Inerfeld.

Rob will be the facilitator at the meetings. Rob reviewed the meeting's agenda. There were no motions to add items. Rob said there are five meetings planned for the panel, but it would be possible to have a sixth if there is a panel consensus to do so.

Charge of the Citizen Advisory Panel: Mark Schoening.

Mark discussed the two charges of the panel: what the possible safety measures are for each crossing; and what type of funding can support this. He also stated:

- This is the first phase of the quiet zone.
- ODOT Rail has future Amtrak development plans that require Lincoln Street to be closed
- The 8th and Hilyard crossing relocation requires closure of the existing 8th & Hilyard crossing; and closure of an additional crossing.

Mark responded to several questions:

- Sam Hahn - why must we close another crossing?
 - Union Pacific requires closing a crossing due to the relocation of 8th and Hilyard crossing
- Sue - When will the projects be done?
 - Mark- Hilyard will be done around the same time as the quiet zone while Amtrak will be done in future years.
- Brittany – Does the Lincoln closure satisfy this additional closure (due to moving 8th & Hilyard)?
 - Mark- Yes
- Sam – Is the charge of the panel also to decide whether or not to have a quiet zone?
 - Mark – City Council has directed staff to pursue a quiet zone, relocate 8th & Hilyard and to recommend a source of funding.

Meeting Logistics: Rob Inerfeld

Rob discussed the meeting logistics including:

- Be respectful
- A panel member can identify an alternate
- All material from meeting will be posted on website
- Want to strive for consensus or a 2/3 majority if consensus cannot be reached.
- Meetings do not have a set public comment period.

Overview of Federal Regulations for Railroad Quiet Zones: Tom Larsen

Tom gave a PowerPoint presentation of federal regulations for railroad quiet zones (available online under Meeting #1). Ending with questions:

- Sam – Is sounding the horn an “option” for the train engineer?
 - Tom - The horn is prohibited in a quiet zone unless an emergency situation arises

- Ron - How sure is a quiet zone with the use of ASM (Alternative Safety Measures)?
 - Tom- Using the calculator approach, we will eventually get there though it may take time.
- Sam – Expressed concern about pedestrian crashes and then losing the quiet zone through accidents.
 - Kerry stated that public outreach/education/trespass enforcement just prior to and during the initial implementation of the QZ should be undertaken to mitigate this issue (this is recommended by FRA).
 - Salem achieved a reduction of fatalities after instituting a quiet zone. But they also added fencing parallel to the tracks, thus only allowing crossings at road crossings.
- Sue – Can a quiet zone be taken away?
 - Kerry- Yes, but we would have three years to solve issues. If issues arise, FRA contacts the road authority and starts discussions on how to correct the safety issue(s) associated with the QZ.
- Jonathan- Asked if staff considered the use of wayside horns?
 - Tom - We ruled these out as they are not really quiet; are expensive; and require City technicians to have special training and certifications to work on the system.
- Eugene Organ- Worried about pedestrian safety of the sight-impaired.
 - Tom - Explained how bells, truncated domes, and lights will still be present at each crossing.

Public Engagement Plan: Eric Jones

Eric present the public engagement plan in a printout provided to each panel member. Key points in his public engagement plan:

- Encourage outreach to the broader public.
- Strive for everyone to have accurate information.
 - Individual panel members report to their constituencies, such as through community newsletters.
- Find options that people will accept.
- Ideas for future outreach could include:
 - Door to door
 - Presentation to groups (neighborhood groups, merchants, Rotary, League of Women Voters)
 - Community open house
 - Online tools such as short videos, Facebook, online comments

Final questions from the panel:

- Brittany – Will Council vote on the suitable option for each crossing as well?
 - Probably not, but the Council would made any decisions on funding for this project
- Sam- Stated there is mostly negative feedback from the Whiteaker Community
 - Rob offered to would help with community outreach
 - Jonathan – Said there are a lot of people in Whiteaker community who do want the quiet zone.
- Doug – Said that people with hearing aids have a lot of trouble with the train horns.
- Sam- Said public outreach should occur sooner than later to prevent another “South Willamette.”

- Sam- Asked about possible options for funding.
 - Mark said 8th and Hilyard may be funded through the Riverfront Urban Renewal Agency and that might also be possible for High and Pearl street crossings. No state or federal money is available for this type of project. It is possible that this project can be added to the next street repair bond measure. Kerry stated that both ODOT and UP have informally stated they are willing to fund crossing closures; but that is an inexpensive item (see PowerPoint slide of street closure).
- Sam expressed concern about pedestrians crossing the tracks if the horns are quieted. Sam and Doug stated that there are a large number of trespassers walking on RR right-of-way (due to fencing issues in the rail corridor). Jonathan pointed out that one of the SSM slides showed pedestrian gates as well as vehicle gates.
- Kerry asked the panel as a summarizing question whether we should deal with bike/ped safety at crossings as well as vehicles in the new QZ; and should we ask UP to fence their ROW? The panel voiced approval of this.
- Brittany would like to help with community outreach. She suggested researching before and after quiet zone examples, with statistical outcomes relating to safety.
- Ron Saylor asked that when staff presents cost estimates for options that all costs are included. Example: cost of property if ROW is to be acquired or cost of business relocation if that is part of the plan.

Next meeting will be held on **December 14, 2015**, at the same location from 3 to 5 pm.