

Train Whistle Inquiry - Enfield

Planning Advisory Committee
September 21, 2021

Planning & Development Department



EAST HANTS

Background

- East Hants Council has received a letter from Edward Kainola, Enfield requesting that the Municipality take action to eliminate the train whistle at the railway crossing in Enfield.
- As Mr. Kainola mentions in his letter, it is a Municipal decision as to whether to request that a train whistle be eliminated or not.
- As noted on the Transport Canada website, “Train whistling is an important way to keep drivers, cyclists and pedestrians safe. The *Canadian Rail Operating Rules* require all trains to whistle whenever they approach a public grade crossing.”

Background



- If Council wishes to proceed with the *Procedure for Eliminating Whistling a Public Grade Crossings*, the necessary steps to follow are outlined on the following slide.
- Detailed information can be found on the Transport Canada website.

Procedure

The following is a paired down version of the *Procedure for Eliminating Whistling at Public Grade Crossings*. A full version of the requirements can be found on the Transport Canada website:

1. A request has to come forward from a citizen or a citizens group to Council requesting to stop train whistling at a certain area(s) along a rail corridor. - *Request has been received from Edward Kainola, resident of Enfield.*
2. Municipality consults with railway company to determine feasibility of request.
3. The municipality notifies all relevant associations or organizations and issues a public notice of its intention to pass a resolution declaring that it agrees that whistles should not be used at a specific area (crossing or multiple crossings) along a railway corridor.
4. The municipality and the railway company assess whether the area meets the requirements to halt train whistling of the Grade Crossings Regulations. The municipality may have to engage a professional engineer to make this determination.
5. Determine if the municipality and railway agree with the findings. If they do agree follow next step, if not resolve conflict.
6. The municipality passes a resolution declaring that it agrees that whistles should not be used in that area, thereby prohibiting train whistling.
7. Upon receipt of the resolution, the railway company notifies Transport Canada and informs the municipality within 30 days that it has arranged to have whistling ceased at the crossing(s).
8. The municipality and railway company share the responsibility for monitoring and maintaining the conditions that support the cessation of train whistling at the crossing(s). A Transport Canada Railway Safety Inspector may order the reinstatement of whistling at the crossing(s) should the responsible authorities fail to maintain the area in a manner that meets the prescribed requirements.

Options

- Planning Advisory Committee have two options in response to the request from Mr. Kainola:
 - a. Recommend to Council to proceed with the *Procedure for Eliminating Whistling at Public Grade Crossings*. Costs related to the procedure are the responsibility of the Municipality.
 - b. Recommend to Council not to proceed with the elimination of the train whistle at the Enfield crossing and to provide Mr. Kainola with a letter from Council indicating their decision.

Conclusion

- Information has been provided to Planning Advisory Committee on the procedure that is to be followed for the elimination of train whistles at public grade crossings.
- If Council wishes to initiate the procedure then a motion should be passed directing staff to proceed with the *Procedure for Eliminating Whistling at Public Grade Crossings*.

Draft motions:

- *Planning Advisory Committee recommends that Council:*
 - *proceed with the Procedure for Eliminating Whistling at Public Grade Crossings. Costs related to the procedure is the responsibility of the Municipality.*

Or

- *Planning Advisory Committee recommends that Council:*
 - *not to proceed with the elimination of the train whistle at the Enfield crossing and to provide Mr. Kainola with a letter from Council indicating their decision.*

Recommendation

- That Planning Advisory Committee recommends that Council provide direction to staff on how to proceed with the request from Mr. Kainola.

Recommended Motion

There is no recommended motion associated with the adoption of this report.