

## Train Whistle Cessation

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Date Approved by Council: June 22, 2021

Resolution No.: 357/21

Mayor: "Original Signed – Alanna Hnatiw"

County Commissioner: "Original Signed – Reagan McCullough"

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### 1. Purpose

The purpose of the policy is to ensure the principles of effective risk management, planning and engineering guide safety levels required to implement whistle cessation at each At-Grade Crossing are followed.

This policy guides decisions on the cessation of train whistles for specific At-Grade Crossings within Sturgeon County in order to provide a balance between federal train crossing requirements and the safe, efficient operation of the road system.

### 2. Revision History

<i>Approval Date</i>	<i>Revision Number</i>	<i>Modification</i>
<i>Year/Month/Date</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>New Document</i>

### 3. Persons/Areas Affected

Council  
County Administration

### 4. Definitions

The following definitions and interpretations apply to this policy:

*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 shown in Figure 1.

*Benefitting Population* means the households within Benefitting Area and must include at least 50 households to qualify for train whistle cessation.

# Council Policy

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Policy Number: ply\_TRA\_Train\_Whistle\_Cessation\_Policy

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CAO means the individual appointed to the position of Chief Administrative Officer of Sturgeon County and having the title County Commissioner, or their designate.

*Council* means the Council of Sturgeon County.

*County* means the Municipality of Sturgeon County.

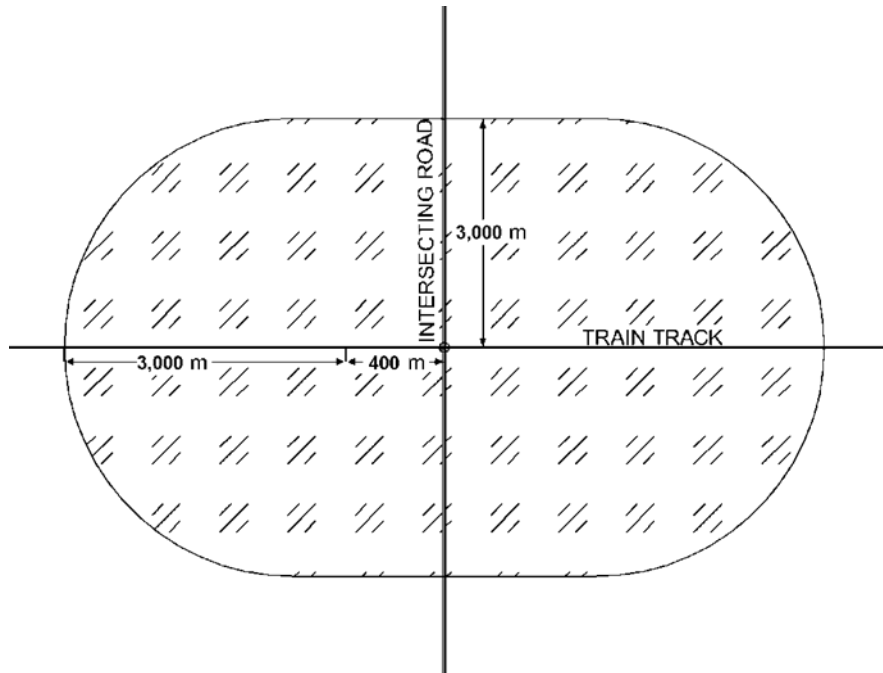
## 5. Policy Statement

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

## 6. Guidelines

- 6.1. The final whistle cessation decision is made and reviewed by Transport Canada.
- 6.2. 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 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.
- 6.3. Sturgeon County residents living within a Benefitting Area may contact Administration and request train whistle cessation.
- 6.4. A whistle cessation safety assessment will be completed by Sturgeon County and the railway company according to Transport Canada's *Grade Crossing Standards*.
- 6.5. All whistle cessation locations will be assessed by the County with respect to location, design, and construction standards.

Figure 1- Train Whistle Cessation Benefiting Area (NTS)



- 6.6. For an At-Grade 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.
- 6.7. Sturgeon 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 Crossing.
- 6.8. 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.

## 7. Responsibilities

Council shall:

- Pass resolutions indicating Sturgeon County's intention to pursue and fund train whistle cessation as recommended by Administration.

Administration shall:

- Institute and administer a process for train whistle cessation requests from Sturgeon County residents.
- Review requests and recommend locations to Council.

## **8. Review Period**

This policy shall be reviewed by Administration at least every four years.

## **9. Cross Reference**

*Railway Safety Act, RSC 1985, c 32 (4th Supp)*  
*Transport Canada's Canadian Rail Operating Rules*  
*Transport Canada's Grade Crossing Standards*