

71624

Page 1



Red Apple Motel

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION

00 FEB -3 AM 10:25

416 N. First Street • Yakima, WA 98901 • 1-509-248-7150 • Fax: 1-509-248-3155

FRA 99-6439

The Honorable Jolene M. Molitoris, Administrator
United States Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street Southwest
Washington, DC 20590

Re: City of Yakima Pilot Project Proposal

I Dear Ms. Molitoris:

I am writing to urge your support in expediting the City of Yakima's proposal that the FRA approve and fund a pilot project for a Train Whistle Quiet Zone in the City of Yakima similar to the existing Quiet Zones in the much larger cities of Spokane and Seattle, which seem to work very well and safely.

The Burlington Northern / Santa Fe Railroad Tracks run through the very center of the Yakima Business District, which includes approximately 18 Motels, of which we are one, and numerous other Restaurants and other Tourist related facilities.

The increased Train traffic is severely impacting our business and the Motel and Convention Business in Yakima. Our revenues, thus our Tax Liabilities, and ability to employ numerous staff, who also pay taxes, are way down as a result of Guests being disturbed by the loud nightly Train Whistles. We are having to refund Room Rentals and lose their Future Business - some guests have stayed regularly at our Motel for 40 years, but no longer, due to the disturbance of their sleep, which is the main reason to rent a Motel Room! We are seriously wondering if we will still be in business next year if this problem is not solved immediately.

We urge you to support and expedite this Pilot Project in order for us to continue to serve Yakima and contribute to the economy.

Sincerely,

Bob Adams

4

Bob Adams, General Manager

 RED LION INN
YAKIMA

To Whom It May Concern:

The Yakima, Washington Red Lion is located approximately one block from the train tracks utilized by the Burlington Northern - Santa Fe Railroad. The whistle noise that is produced by the engines at all hours, day or night, is simply unacceptable.

Matt Hunter, the previous General Manager, was very active in the implementation of the "Yakima Train Whistle Quiet Zone" Pilot Project. Since my arrival in June of 1997, I have had numerous complaints about the whistle and have lost an unknown number of guests. Complaints about the whistle are received on a daily basis. The number of guests that simply do not return, are even greater. The loss of revenue is substantial.

Any assistance, on your behalf, in resolving this matter will be greatly appreciated. If I can do anything to further the success of this project, please advise.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Kathy Lemons
General Manager



page 3



The Honorable Jolene M. Molitoris, Administrator
United States Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street Southwest
Washington, DC 20590

Re: City of Yakima Pilot Project Proposal

Dear Ms. Molitoris,

I am the new General Manager for the Motel 6 in Yakima. I have been here for 9 months now and have been approached numerous times regarding the train whistles throughout the night. Many of our regular guests know that they need to request a room away from the train noise. We are able to accommodate those requests but how many guests have we lost because they don't know to ask for that.

As a member of the Yakima Visitor's and Convention Bureau, I can honestly speak for many other businesses that the sound of the train whistles at night is a definite downfall to the beauty of our city. I know that my Motel is not the only one that is affected by the sound because of the number of hotels/motels that are backed up to the tracks.

Any assistance that we can receive to quiet the train whistles down would be greatly appreciated. We thank you for your support in advance to help keep our City of Yakima a beautiful one.

Sincerely,

Mark Eberhart
General Manager

The motels on N. 1st St. Would like as soon as possible for their guests to have an undisturbed, peaceful night of sleep and in turn be able to bring in better revenues to the motels as well as to the city. We need immediate attention in bringing about a quiet zone around the N. 1st St. Area. Thank you for your quick help in this matter.

Sincerely,

Best Western Peppertree	Corothy Kemp
BW - Pepper Tree	Conna Villalobos
Doubtree	Tris
Mendota	Judy Hillman
Motel 6	Dennis Rhodes
motel 6	Dennis Rhodes
Red Lion Inn	Wanda Conway
Red Lion Inn	Andrew Noel
Bali Hai Motel	Jah
Economy Inn	Mary
Son Country inn	Senya
Red apple motel	Julie Bob Adams
Big Bali motel	M. Jones



Red Apple Motel

416 N. First Street . Yakima, WA 98901 . 1-509-248-7150 . Fax: 1-509-248-3155

10/25/99

Re: **City of Yakima Pilot Project Proposal**

Dear

We appreciate the time and effort you have extended on our behalf in helping to resolve the Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Railroad Noise Problem.

We cannot stress the importance of alleviating this problem as soon as possible. Our business has been severely impacted, and we do not know how much longer we can survive this loss of income from guests who are choosing to stay elsewhere because of the severe noise problem.

The City of Yakima says that *the funding has already been approved, and that they are ready to implement the Quiet Zone, and are only waiting for approval by Burlington Northern-Santa Fe to proceed.*

We urge you to check this out with the interested parties and expedite the approval of the "Yakima Train Whistle Quiet Zone" Pilot Project in order for us and the many other tourism-based businesses to continue to serve our guests and contribute tourism Dollars to the Yakima and Washington State economy.

Sincerely,

Bob Adams

Bob Adams, General Manager

Julie Yoon

Julie Yoon, Proprietor

-Stay at a Real Motel - at Super-Budget Rates!

Red Apple Motel

416 N. First Street • Yakima, WA 98901 + 1-509-248-7150 + Fax: 1-509-248-3155

11/19/99

Re: Yakima Whistle Ban Pilot Project

Thank you very much for your help thus far on implementing this the much needed noise abatement project in the City of Yakima. The Train traffic and noise seems to increase daily. (and nightly!)

Yakima City Officials say that the funds and agreement between all of the concerned parties have been approved by all interested parties, and that they are ready to go forward with this plan immediately upon receipt of the original agreement, dated 9/2/99, as yet to be signed by Burlington Northern - Santa Fe Railway.

It is not fair to the Business Owners and the People of Yakima for BNSF to require conditions relative to the settlement of the lawsuit between BNSF and The City of Yakima to their signing of this Whistle Ban agreement. One case has nothing what-so-ever to do with the other.

We ask for your help and influence in convincing the BNSF Railway Company to alleviate our frustration with the noisy train whistles blowing day and night throughout downtown Yakima.

Thank you very much,

Sincerely,

Julie Yoon

Julie Yoon,
Proprietor

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
PERMITS

00 FEB -3 AM 10: 22

Please help us as soon as possible!!

From the motels on N. 1st St. YAKIMA,

Thank you