

To Whom It Concerns:

Thank you for studying the coal train issue. Please include Stanwood in your scoping process. This town is greatly affected by the train tracks that split it.

I live three blocks from the railroad crossing of downtown Stanwood. I love train travel. I worked on the Design Stanwood transportation committee that worked to establish an Amtrak train platform. I know that it's more energy efficient to move freight than by truck. But there are more issues here than efficiency.

Here are some aspects that I believe should be scoped for our area:

**1. Please scope how increased freight traffic affects passenger train service in Stanwood.**

We worked hard for our train platform and taxpayers paid millions for it. This gives us transportation options and gets cars off the highways. How will increased freight traffic impact the Amtrak schedule and service?

**2a. Please scope how it impacts the Main Street train crossing in downtown Stanwood in regard to car traffic...**

There are only two east-west corridors in Stanwood: Highway 532 and Main Street (a.k.a. 271st Street). The highway has a bridge over the rails and is not impeded by trains.

When the train stops traffic on Main Street, waiting cars blocked parked cars and nearby streets. How will longer, more frequent trains affect us?

**2b. How will it affect our walkers, bicyclists, and the lady in the wheelchair who I see going downtown every day.**

I live in town so that I can walk everywhere, every day: post office, grocery store, library, restaurants, meetings, and to work. It's too far and dangerous to detour. The crossing bells are too loud to stand near.

**3. Please scope how increased freight traffic impacts Highway 532 due to cars trying to detour around the train.**

Sometimes cars detour to Highway 532 to cross the tracks via a bridge. However, during busy times of day, this highway is overburdened and it can take two to three traffic light cycles to get through intersections.

**4a. Please scope the effect on the train crossing north of town where Pacific Highway meets Pioneer Highway ...**

Pioneer Highway is the route that locals take between Stanwood/Camano and all points north (i.e. Mount Vernon, LaConner, Skagit Valley, Bellingham). Southbound traffic can cross the tracks here as a short cut to west Stanwood and Camano Island. When a train is passing, there is room for about one



car to turn off Pioneer Highway onto Pacific Highway. When cars wait for the train, they pile up on southbound Pioneer Highway, thereby restricting traffic. Drivers who want to continue on Pioneer do, however, try to pass the waiting cars, even though it's a blind curve. Pioneer is a very busy road.

**4b. ...and the resulting traffic on Highway 532 in Stanwood.**

People who don't want to chance being stopped by the train at this crossing can go through Stanwood on Highway 532, which is often jammed.

**5. Please scope how the added freight traffic will add to the wear and tear of the tracks and surrounding area. Consider all the aspects.**

How heavy are these trains? How long? What percentage of train traffic does it represent in time and tons?

How will long, heavy freight trains affect slide areas? I live three blocks from the tracks and feel the trains go by.

How will the freight trains affect the area when it's flooded and the land is more vulnerable?

**6. Someone is obviously going to make a lot of money from this venture. Please scope out who is paying for the infrastructure for them to do it.**

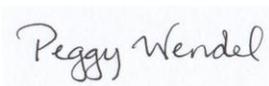
Who pays for maintenance and repair?

Who pays for improvements that need to be made to facilitate the increased freight traffic?

I am also concerned about noise, coal dust, and added diesel fumes, dirt, and grime. Other people are addressing this and I encourage you to scope those issues as well.

Thank you for your hard work.

Sincerely,



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