

WERNERSVILLE BOROUGH
Berks County, Pennsylvania

ENTERED
Office of Chief Counsel
September 25, 2026
Part of
Public Record

September 5, 2026

REF: Docket # FD 36873 Union Pacific/Norfolk Southern

TO: Federal Railroad Administration; Pennsylvania Department of Transportation; Norfolk Southern Railway
SUBJECT: Request for Quiet Zone Feasibility Review – South Church Road and Werner Street Railroad Crossings

Dear Sir or Madam:

On behalf of Wernersville Borough, Berks County, Pennsylvania, I am writing to request assistance in evaluating the feasibility of establishing a railroad Quiet Zone encompassing the public highway-rail grade crossings at S. Church Street and Werner Street in Wernersville Borough.

The Borough is seeking an initial feasibility and safety review under the Federal Railroad Administration's Train Horn Rule, 49 CFR Part 222. At this stage, the Borough is not requesting that locomotive horn sounding be discontinued. Rather, we wish to determine whether these two crossings may qualify for a Quiet Zone and what safety improvements, procedural steps, and costs may be necessary.

We respectfully request assistance in reviewing the following two crossings:

- **South Church Road railroad crossing - Wernersville Borough, Pennsylvania**
- **Werner Street railroad crossing - Wernersville Borough, Pennsylvania**

As part of the review, the Borough would appreciate assistance in determining:

- the official U.S. DOT/FRA Crossing Inventory number for each crossing;
- the current FRA inventory information, including train frequency, train speeds, roadway traffic information, and crossing accident/incident history;
- the existing active warning devices and other safety measures at each crossing;
- whether the two crossings may be included within a single Wernersville Borough Quiet Zone;
- the applicable Quiet Zone Risk Index and other FRA risk calculations;
- whether Supplementary Safety Measures or Alternative Safety Measures would be required, including possible medians/channelization, four-quadrant gates, or other improvements; and
- the recommended procedural steps, engineering requirements, and preliminary cost considerations for moving forward.

The Borough recognizes that public safety is the primary consideration in any Quiet Zone determination. Our objective is to evaluate whether routine locomotive horn noise can be reduced while maintaining or improving the level of safety at these crossings.

We would welcome a diagnostic meeting or field review involving representatives of the Federal Railroad Administration, PennDOT, Norfolk Southern Railway, Wernersville Borough, and any other appropriate agencies. Such a review would help the Borough understand the existing conditions and identify any improvements that may be necessary before Council considers further action.

Please advise the Borough regarding the appropriate contacts and next steps needed to begin this feasibility review.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation.

Sincerely,

David Latino
President, Wernersville Borough Council
Wernersville Borough
100 N Reber St.
Berks County, Pennsylvania

CC: Parties of Record