

**CITY OF BLAINE
REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION
MEETING DATE:**

SUBJECT: BNSF Relocation Letter to Paul LeMay

SUBMITTING DEPT: City Manager

PREPARED BY: Gary Tomsic

AGENDA LOCATION: Comments/Communications ☐, Consent ☐ Committee Reports ☐,
Unfinished Business ☐, New Business ☒ Public Hearing ☐, Standing Committees ☐

ATTACHMENTS: Copy of Letter

SUMMARY/BACKGROUND: Mr. LeMay made a presentation to the City Council regarding the possible relocation of the BNSF railway line from the White Rock area through Blaine. The Council asked that a letter be drafted to Mr. LeMay stating the Council's interest in the plan.

RECOMMENDATION: Authorize the Mayor to Sign the letter

FISCAL ANALYSIS

None

REVIEWED BY: City Manager _____ Finance Dir. _____ City Clerk _____

COUNCIL ACTION:

☐ Approved ☐ Denied ☐ Tabled/Deferred ☐ Assigned to: _____

COUNCIL ACTION: _____



CITY OF BLAINE

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Mr. Paul H. LeMay
220-2055 York Avenue
Vancouver, BC
Canada V6J1E5

Dear Paul:

The purpose of this letter is to respond to the excellent presentation that you and Ken Jones recently made to the Blaine City Council regarding the possible realignment of the BNSF railway line between the White Rock, B.C. and the City of Blaine.

Much like the White Rock-Crescent Beach area, the BNSF rail line along our coastline continues to present problems with noise and frequent delays at the three rail crossings in Blaine. This problem has been exacerbated by increases in rail traffic combined with the siting of the VACIS and x-ray inspection equipment near Bell Road at the south end of Blaine. We constantly receive complaints from citizens upset with noise, long waits and concerns about emergency services.

The relocation of the railway line appears to have several obvious benefits to the City of Blaine. However, the issues are very complex. Until a very thorough analysis of the project is completed, it is impossible for us to determine whether the benefits will outweigh the negative impacts on our community.

Such an analysis will be extremely expensive and must be lead by Washington State and the Federal government. It appears to us that these partners have are not fully engaged in the realignment project. We believe that to engage our State and Federal governments will take formal action on the part of your provincial government.

The City of Blaine stands ready to fully participate with your government and ours in evaluating the possible realignment of the BNSF railway line through Blaine.

We appreciate your efforts and vision. Please keep us informed of the opportunities for us to learn more about the project.

Sincerely yours,

Blaine City Council
Mike Meyers, Mayor