

RESOLUTION NO.

14-23

**TITLE: A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF HUDSON AND THE HUDSON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT REQUESTING REMEDIAL ACTION TO REDUCE OR ELIMINATE EXCESSIVE BLOCKAGES OF THE HIGHWAY 52 RAILROAD CROSSING BY BURLINGTON NORTHERN SANTA FE RAILWAY**

WHEREAS, there is only one full public vehicular crossing of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad tracks within Hudson, that at-grade crossing being in downtown Hudson on Colorado Highway 52; and

WHEREAS, maintaining reasonable access across the railroad tracks is essential for emergency services to protect the public, for businesses using Highway 52 in the conduct of their business, and for other travelers on Highway 52 to commute to and from jobs, school, and other destinations; and

WHEREAS, trains park on the crossing for excessively long periods of time, up to an hour or longer, without moving or uncoupling cars to reopen the crossing, which significantly impairs the ability of the Town of Hudson and its traveling public, businesses and emergency services to effectively function; and

WHEREAS, the rail siding extending from Highway 52 south is insufficiently long to accommodate parked trains without blocking the crossing; and

WHEREAS, BNSF has been unresponsive and unwilling to account for excessively long crossing blockages or to mitigate the problem; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Town of Hudson and the Board of Trustees of the Hudson Fire Protection District find it necessary and in the public interest based on the non-responsiveness of BNSF to seek relief from BNSF and from the Colorado Legislature.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN OF HUDSON, COLORADO, AND BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HUDSON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT AS FOLLOWS:


Section 1. BNSF is requested to establish a policy of uncoupling trains that are anticipated to block Colorado Highway 52 for periods in excess of fifteen (15) minutes.

Section 2. BNSF is requested to immediately implement and all necessary State agencies are requested to approve a capital project to extend the rail siding in Hudson from Highway 52 south to a point sufficiently distant to accommodate the longest train using or anticipated to use the rail line.

Section 3. The Colorado Legislature is requested to consider legislation providing reasonable limits to blockages of state highways and other major thoroughfares that are critical to maintenance of the public safety, conduct of commerce, and public convenience, with penalties for violations that would sufficiently ensure compliance.

INTRODUCED, READ and PASSED this 6<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2014.

TOWN OF HUDSON, COLORADO

  
Raymond Patch, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Linnette Barker, CMC, Town Clerk



HUDSON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

  
D.J. Dowdy, President

ATTEST:

  
Vicki Johann, Clerk