

My name is Jeff Allen and I have been a class 1 Conductor for over 22 years at Union Pacific Railroad. I would like to share with you the reality of how these long trains are affecting the public.

Union Pacific Railroad runs a train daily at approximately 0530 in the morning out of the North end of Brooklyn Yard in Portland, OR. The train (ZBRG2) varies in size anywhere from 12,000 feet to 16,000 feet. The yard is not big enough to build this train in one track, so it usually gets built in 3 or 4 tracks. When it's time to put those tracks together to run the train, there is no way of doing it without blocking 3 crossings for approximately 2 hours. SE 12th Ave, SE Milwaukie Ave & SE 8th Ave. all get blocked around the morning rush hour for up to 2 hours. During this time, people become frustrated, and start climbing through the train or even pull a pin to create a separation in the train which then creates a much longer delay. When the train is ready to depart, it will block a total of 15 crossings for at least another 30 minutes due to speed restrictions in that area. SE Clay St all the way to SE Stark St will be blocked for a minimum of 30 minutes because the speed restriction is set at 6 mph due to the curvature of the track. SE 12th Ave to SE 8th Ave is blocked for an additional 30 minutes making a total of 2 and 1 half hours of blockage.

In addition to the ZBRG2, the inbound train of equal length, the ZG2BR blocks the same crossings for extremely long periods of time while the train crew puts the train away in the yard.

This is only 1 example of 1 train and the havoc it causes to the public. There is no justifiable reason to run trains this long. It is a public safety hazard, and we don't have the infrastructure to support it.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JA', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.