

**BNSF**

RONALD D. JACKSON  
Northwest Division  
General Manager

2454 OCCIDENTAL AVE SO  
Seattle, Washington 98134  
Phone: (206) 625-6333  
Fax: (206) 625-6540

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July 22, 2004

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM.

Don Wickstrom  
Director Public Works  
525 - 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. North  
Kent, WA 98031

Dear Mr. Wickstrom,

This letter is to inform you that BNSF has completed all track, signal, and crossing improvements that are necessary for Sound Transit's current and future commuter operation through the City of Kent. The completion of these improvements means that we are ready to implement the necessary train speed increases previously discussed with representatives from the City. Our intention remains the same; to ultimately raise freight train speeds from today's 40mph limit to 50mph, and to raise passenger train speeds from 40mph to 79mph. These speed increases are necessary to add capacity to our railroad which ultimately will enable Sound Transit to add more commuter service.

Reviewing the construction progress in Kent over the past 3 years, we have added a new Centralized Traffic Control (CTC) system to our two mainlines, constructed a new control point at Willis Street, installed inter-track fencing at the Kent station, installed new crossing panels complete with median barriers, upgraded our crossing protection activation sensors, and provided preemption circuitry at the crossings of James, Smith, Meeker, Gowe, and Willis Street to better flow city traffic at Central Avenue. Although BNSF is complete with all required work, we understand that the city has been delayed in its design and installation of the traffic intertie connections that BNSF has provided at each of these grade crossings. We also understand that your scheduled completion for these intertie connections is not until the end of this year.

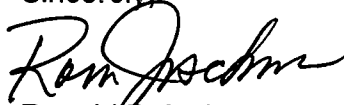
Because of the delay in the completion of your traffic improvements, we are willing to wait until the end of this year to make our ultimate speed increase to 79mph. However, we intend to make a small increase of 10mph (from 40mph to 50mph) for all trains beginning August 13, 2004. This 10mph increase will provide slightly more capacity for the shared use of our railroad, slightly less traffic delay at blocked crossings, and will enable our freight trains to proceed without having to decelerate (brake) and reaccelerate every trip through Kent, thus saving time and fuel. Our goal remains to increase passenger speed from

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50mph to 79mph no later than the end of this year, or upon the completion of your project to connect the interties, whichever is sooner.

Please call anytime if there are any questions or concerns, and as always, we appreciate the assistance of your city with railroad trespassing and grade crossing safety.

Sincerely,



Ronald D Jackson  
General Manager

cc : ~~Mike~~ Rowswell - WUTC  
Doug Werner  
D. J. Mitchell  
Mike Cowles  
Walt Smith  
Glen Haug  
Roger Jacobsen  
Joe Albinger  
Martin Young – Sound Transit  
Mike Merrick – Sound Transit  
Melissa Flores – Sound Transit  
Steve Mullen – City of Kent