From: Robert Yates
To: Young, Betty (UTC)

Cc: jennie@portofcolumbia.org; Grant Morgan, P.E.; Lisa Ronnberg; Eric Zitterkopf; Jeff McCowen

Subject: RE: USDOT 097009F Crossing - Application Withdrawal

Date: Monday, September 24, 2018 10:06:06 AM

Attachments: <u>image003.png</u>

image004.png image005.png

Betty:

The work for a new bridge and its road approaches will proceed, scheduled for the summer of 2020.

However we are vastly simplifying the previous design (costs) by eliminating the planned new approach to US 12 and hence the need for a new R/R crossing and the abandonment of the existing crossing.

Thank you very much!

ROBERT K. YATES Lead Inspector, ET4



Columbia County Public Works 415 N. Guernsey Ave. P.O. Box 5 Dayton, WA 99328 509 382 2534 Phone 509 382 4724 Fax

From: Young, Betty (UTC) [mailto:betty.young@utc.wa.gov]

Sent: Monday, September 24, 2018 9:50 AM

To: Robert Yates

Cc: jennie@portofcolumbia.org

Subject: RE: USDOT 097009F Crossing - Application Withdrawal

Thank you for the information. The commission will issue an order rescinding its approval for crossing construction.

Is the bridge replacement not happening either, or just the railroad crossing portion?

Betty Young

Transportation Planning Specialist Rail Safety (360) 664-1202

Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC)

 $Respect.\ Professionalism.\ Integrity.\ Accountability.$

www.utc.wa.gov



From: Robert Yates [mailto:Robert_Yates@co.columbia.wa.us]

Sent: Monday, September 24, 2018 7:57 AM

To: Young, Betty (UTC) < betty.young@utc.wa.gov>

Cc: jennie@portofcolumbia.org

Subject: USDOT 097009F Crossing - Application Withdrawal

Dear Ms Young:

Please considers this email as notification that Columbia County Public Works hereby withdraws its application and/or effort to relocate or abandon crossing 097009F and/or construct new nearby crossing.

Columbia County will not be relocating or reconstructing said crossing.

The attached PDF is all the information I have in regards to the County's efforts so far.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your and the UTC's attention on this matter.

Regards;

ROBERT K. YATES

Lead Inspector, ET4



Columbia County Public Works 415 N. Guernsey Ave. P.O. Box 5 Dayton, WA 99328 509 382 2534 Phone 509 382 4724 Fax

Andrew Woods

crom:

Eric Zitterkopf <ezitterkopf@andersonperry.com>

Sent:

Monday, December 11, 2017 3:31 PM

To:

Andrew Woods

Subject:

FW: Rose-Gulch Road crossing (USDOT 097009F)

Attachments:

Inventory Report 097009F.pdf; Construct a Crossing 5-2017.docx

Drew

Please see below and the attached regarding the rail crossing for Rose Gulch. We can gather all the design info for the meeting but the County needs to schedule the meeting with all the necessary players. Please call me to discuss so we can keep this ball moving.

Eric

From: Young, Betty (UTC) [mailto:byoung@utc.wa.gov]

Sent: Monday, December 11, 2017 2:31 PM

To: Bill Vixie

Subject: Rose-Gulch Road crossing (USDOT 097009F)

Hi Bill – Thanks for talking with me today. Per <u>RCW 81.53.060</u>, alteration of grade crossings in Washington requires a retition to the UTC.

Generally, the UTC petition process works as follows:

- 1. Safety Assessment (on-site meeting) The safety assessment is a meeting of the parties (UTC staff, the railroad owner/operator, and the road authority at a minimum) at the location of the proposed crossing and provide an opportunity for discussion of any safety concerns and/or questions prior to the petition being filed at the commission. The County, as the petitioner, would schedule the meeting, discuss the project scope, answer any questions, and send out meeting notes after the safety assessment. Important information that will need to be included in the discussion on site includes: the current AADT for Rose-Gulch Road, type of commodities to be hauled by train over the crossing (e.g., will hazardous materials be transported), the percentage of commercial vehicles that use Rose-Gulch Road and will use the new crossing (will vehicles hauling hazardous materials be traveling over the crossing?), is this a school bus route, is there pedestrian traffic, etc. I've attached a copy of the FRA Inventory for this crossing essentially the information shown there will need to be reviewed/current.
- 2. Petition When approving a new public crossing, the commission considers public necessity, convenience and safety. Current state policy strongly discourages construction of new highway-railroad crossings at grade unless no other viable alternatives exist, and even in those instances, consideration should be given to closing one or more existing crossings. Generally, the commission requires a feasibility study on whether or not it is <u>practicable to grade separate</u> the new crossing (construct the new crossing over or under the railroad tracks). New crossings also require SEPA review.

Support from the railroad for construction of the new highway-railroad crossing is critical. If approved by UTC, the railroad would assume responsibility for maintaining the new grade crossing including all signal equipment (if applicable) in perpetuity under current state law. Also, the UTC has minimum standards which must generally be met for construction of any new public crossing including an acceptable crossing surface (preferably concrete panels), an approach grade on both sides of the crossing that does not exceed five percent, shoulder-mounted

12 inch LED flashing lights with gates, modern train detection circuitry (preferably constant warning), standard reflectorized crossbucks mounted on both masts, reflectorized advance warning signs on both roadway approaches to the crossing, a road alignment perpendicular to the tracks at or near 90 degrees, and, if there is pedestrian traffic, sidewalks to cross the tracks outside the roadway. The crossing geometry and signaling system must be designed by a professional engineer and the crossing and equipment must be installed by a qualified contractor acceptable to the railroad. (Site-specific factors are usually discussed at the on-site meeting, but you can use the FHWA Guidance on Traffic Control Devices at Highway-Rail Grade Crossings to help determine if active warning devices are warranted.)

Once the SEPA and feasibility study are complete and the project is at approximately 60% design, the petitioner files the petition with the commission. The petitioner must ensure that all of the information in the petition is current and complete and obtain the respondent's signature (in this case, the Port and Frontier Rail are both respondents) on the Waiver of Hearing portion of the petition prior to filing. The SEPA determination of non-significance, the feasibility study and design drawings must also be included with the petition. A copy of the petition form is attached for your reference.

3. Order – Once the petition is received, commission staff reviews it and, assuming the petition is complete, makes a recommendation to the commission for approval. The matter will then go before the commission at one of its regularly-scheduled open public meetings for consideration. If approved, the commission would issue an order that same day.

Please let me know if you have additional questions.

Betty Young

ransportation Planning Specialist Rail Safety (360) 664-1202

Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC)
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U. S. DOT CROSSING INVENTORY FORM

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION

OMB No. 2130-0017

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U. S. DOT CROSSING INVENTORY FORM

Revision Date (MM/DD/YYYY)					PAGE 2 D. Crossing Inventory Number (7 char.) 097009F											
3170171307			Part III	: Highway o	ghway or Pathway Traffic Control Device Information											
1. Are there	2. Types of	Passive T	raffic Cont	rol Devices asso	ciated wit	th the (Crossing									
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2.E. Low Ground Clearance Sign (W10-5)			Varkings			2.G. Chan Devices/N	nelization Jedians			2.H. EXEMP (R15-3)	T Sign	2.I. ENS Displaye		(I-13)		
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2.J. Other MUTCD Signs ☐ Yes ☑ No				5			Signs (if p.	te Crossing rivate)	2.L.	LED En	hanced Signs	(List types)			
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3.J. Non-Train Activ ☐ Flagging/Flagma		y Operate	d Signals [☐ Watchman [☐ Floodligh	nting [☐ None		3.K. Other Flashing Lights or Warning Devices Count 0 Specify type							
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1. Traffic Lanes Cro	575 536	☐ Two	o-way Traf	ffic P	Paved?				ack Run Down a Street? 4. Is Crossing Illuminated? (Street lights within approx. 50 feet from							
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6. Intersecting Roa	adway within	500 feet?			7. Smallest Crossing Ai				igle 8. Is C			8. Is Co	mmercial	Pow	er Available?	*
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Submitted by Organization Phone Date Public reporting burden for this information collection is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data																
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WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

	DOCKET NO. TR-
Columbia County Petitioner,	PETITION TO CONSTRUCT A HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE CROSSING
VS.	
Port of Columbia (rail owner),	USDOT CROSSING NO.: TBD
Frontier Rail (railroad operator) Respondents.	

The Petitioner asks the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) to approve construction of a highway-rail grade crossing as described in this petition.

Prior to submitting this petition to the UTC, State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA) requirements must be met. Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 197-11-865 (2) requires:

All actions of the utilities and transportation commission under statutes administered as of December 12, 1975, are exempted, except the following:

(2) Authorization of the openings or closing of any highway/railroad grade crossing, or the direction of physical connection of the line of one railroad with that of another;

Please attach sufficient documentation to demonstrate that the SEPA requirement has been fulfilled. For additional information on SEPA requirements contact the Department of Ecology.

Section 1 – Petitioner's Information

Columbia County Petitioner Signature
415 North Guernsey Avenue Street Address
Dayton, Washington 99328 City, State and Zip Code
P.O. Box 5, Dayton, Washington 99328 Mailing Address, if different than the street address
Andrew Woods Contact Person Name
509-382-2534 Andrew_Woods@co.columbia.wa.us Contact Phone Number and E-mail Address
The state of the s

$Section\ 2-Respondent's\ Information$

Port of Columbia
Respondent #1
1 Port Way
Street Address
Dayton, Washington 99328
City, State and Zip Code
Mailing Address, if different than the street address
Jennie Dickinson
Contact Person Name
509-382-2577 jennie@portofcolumbia.org
Contact Phone Number and E-mail Address

Section 2 – Respondent's Information (cont.)

Frontier Rail									
Respondent #2									
425 SE 3rd Avenue, Suite #206									
Street Address									
Portland, Oregon 97214									
City, State and Zip Code									
Mailing Address, if different than the street address									
Paul Didelius									
Contact Person Name									
971-888-6011 PD@frontierrail.com									
Contact Phone Number and E-mail Address									
Section 3 - Proposed Crossing Location									
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	4. Average annual daily traffic (AADT)175								
	5. Number of lanes 2								
	6. Roadway speed 50								
	7. Is the road part of an established truck route? Yes X No								
	8. If so, trucks are what percent of total daily traffic?40%								
	9. Is the road part of an established school bus route? Yes X No								
	10. If so, how many school buses travel over the crossing each day? 2								
	11. Describe any changes to the information in 1 through 9, above, expected within ten years: None								
l	Section 5 – Railroad Information								
	1. Railroad owner/operator: Port of Columbia / Frontier Rail								
	2. Type of railroad at crossing ■ Common Carrier □ Logging □ Industrial								
	□ Passenger □ Excursion								
- 1	3. Type of tracks at crossing ■ Main Line □ Siding or Spur								
	3. Type of tracks at crossing ■ Main Line □ Siding or Spur								
	 3. Type of tracks at crossing ■ Main Line □ Siding or Spur 4. Number of tracks at crossing <u>1</u> 								
	4. Number of tracks at crossing 1								
	 4. Number of tracks at crossing 1 5. Average daily train traffic, freight 1 Train Monday through Friday 								
	4. Number of tracks at crossing 1 5. Average daily train traffic, freight 1 Train Monday through Friday Authorized freight train speed 10 Operated freight train speed 10								
	4. Number of tracks at crossing 1 5. Average daily train traffic, freight 1 Train Monday through Friday Authorized freight train speed 10 Operated freight train speed 10 6. Average daily train traffic, passenger N/A								

9. Does the petitioner propose to close any existing crossings? Yes X No
Section 6 – Temporary Crossing
1. Is the crossing proposed to be temporary? Yes No _X_
2. If so, describe the purpose of the crossing and the estimated time it will be needed
3. Will the petitioner remove the crossing at completion of the activity requiring the temporary crossing? Yes No
Approximate date of removal
Section 7 – Alternatives to the Proposal
Does a safer location for a crossing exist within a reasonable distance of the proposed location? Yes No _X
2. If a safer location exists, explain why the crossing should not be located at that site.
3. Are there any hillsides, embankments, buildings, trees, railroad loading platforms or other barriers in the vicinity which may obstruct a motorist's view of the crossing? Yes X No No
 4. If a barrier exists, describe: Whether petitioner can relocate the crossing to avoid the obstruction and if not, why not. How the barrier can be removed. How the petitioner or another party can mitigate the hazard caused by the barrier.
There are shrubs near the proposed crossing that will be removed prior to completion of the new crossing.

5. Is it feasible to construct an over-crossing or under-crossing at the proposed location as an alternative to an at-grade crossing? Yes No _X_
6. If an over-crossing or under-crossing is not feasible, explain why. An over- or under-crossing would add considerable cost to the project. Funds are not
available for such an undertaking. Also, given the close proximity of U.S. Highway 12
to the railroad, an over- or under-crossing may not even be possible without a major
realignment to the highway or railroad.
7. Does the railway line, at any point in the vicinity of the proposed crossing, pass over a fill area or trestle or through a cut where it is feasible to construct an over-crossing or an under-crossing, even though it may be necessary to relocate a portion of the roadway to reach that point? Yes No _X_
 8. If such a location exists, state: The distance and direction from the proposed crossing. The approximate cost of construction. Any reasons that exist to prevent locating the crossing at this site.
9. Is there an existing public or private crossing in the vicinity of the proposed crossing? Yes X No

- 10. If a crossing exists, state:
 - ♦ The distance and direction from the proposed crossing.
 - ♦ Whether it is feasible to divert traffic from the proposed to the existing crossing.

This is a reconstruction of an existing crossing at a new location. The existing crossing is located approximately 400 feet east of the proposed crossing, as shown on the attached preliminary drawings.

The basic need for this project is to replace the Vernon Smith Bridge that crosses the Touchet River.

A second objective is to realign Road Gulch Road, removing the unnecessary horizontal curves between the new bridge and U.S. Highway 12 and installing a new intersection with U.S. Highway 12.

Section 8 - Sight Distance

- 1. Complete the following table, describing the sight distance for motorists when approaching the tracks from either direction.
- a. Approaching the crossing from <u>south</u>, the current approach provides an unobstructed view as follows: (North, South, East, West)

Direction of sight (left or right)	Number of feet from proposed crossing	Provides an unobstructed view for how many feet
Right	300	N/A
Right	200	N/A
Right	100	400 feet
Right	50	400 feet
Right	25	400 feet
Left	300	N/A
Left	200	N/A
Left	100	Over 1 mile
Left	50	Over 1 mile
Left	25	Over 1 mile

b. Approaching the crossing from <u>north</u>, the current approach provides an unobstructed view as follows: (Opposite direction-North, South, East, West)

Direction of sight (left or right)	Number of feet from proposed crossing	Provides an unobstructed view for how many feet
Right	300	Over 1 mile
Right	200	350 feet
Right	100	700 feet
Right	50	700 feet
Right	25	Over 1 mile
Left	300	900 feet
Left	200	900 feet
Left	100	900 feet

Left	50	900 feet
Left	25	900 feet
railway on both approaches Yes X No	to the crossing? —— gth of level grade f	ch measuring 25 feet from the center of the from the center of the from the center of the railway on both approaches
4. Will the new crossing pro level grade? Yes X No		grade of not more than five percent prior to the
5. If not, state the percentage five percent.	e of grade prior to t	the level grade and explain why the grade exceeds
Section 9	– Illustration of Pr	oposed Crossing Configuration
♦ The vicinity of the	proposed crossing.	ner illustration showing the following: 00 feet adjacent to the crossing in all directions.
		Section 7 or identified in Section 8. cation of the existing and proposed signage.
	Section 10	9 – Sidewalks
Provide the following info a. Provide a descripti b. Describe who will c. Attach a proposed	ion of the type of si maintain the sidev	idewalks proposed.
No sidewalks are pla	nned.	

Section 11 - Proposed Warning Signals or Devices

Explain in detail the number and type of automatic signals or other warning devices planned at the proposed crossing, including a cost estimate for each. If requesting preemption, include the type of train detection circuitry, sequencing and advance preemption time.
 Passive warning devices will include MUTCD-compliant crossbuck (R15-1) assemblies with yield signs (R1-2), emergency notification system signs (I-13), and retroreflective strips on the sign supports on both approaches to the crossing. An advance warning sign (W10-1) will be posted on Rose Gulch Rd., and W10-3 signs will be posted on SR-12. Grade crossing pavement markings will be added on both approaches to the crossing.
 Provide an estimate for maintaining the signals for 12 months.
 Is the petitioner prepared to pay to the respondent railroad company its share of installing the warning devices as provided by law?

Section 12 – Additional Information

No

Yes

Provide any additional information supporting the proposal, including project-specific information such as the public benefits that would be derived from constructing a new crossing as proposed.

This is a reconstruction of an existing crossing at a new location, and is part of a federally-funded project to replace the Vernon Smith Bridge that crosses the Touchet River. The project will also realign Rose Gulch Road, removing the unnecessary horizontal curves between the new bridge and U.S. Highway 12 and installing a new intersection with U.S. Highway 12. The completed project will enhance public safety and improve access over the Touchet River to U.S. Highway 12. The new bridge will meet current safety standards, realignment of Rose Gulch Road will provide safe route of travel and sight distances. The new railway crossing will be constructed to meet current design and safety standards of the MUTCD and railroad. The reconstructed Rose Gulch Road will be asphalt instead of gravel, and the new crossing surface will also be asphalt. Once the new crossing is constructed, the existing crossing (USDOT 097009F) will be closed and the roadway will be removed.

Section 13 – Waiver of Hearing by Respondent

Waiver of Hearing
The undersigned represents the Respondent in the petition to construct a highway-railroad grade crossing.
USDOT Crossing No.:
We have investigated the conditions at the proposed crossing site. We are satisfied the conditions are the same as described by the Petitioner in this docket. We agree that a crossing be installed and consent to a decision by the commission without a hearing.
Dated at, Washington, on the day of
, 20
Port of Columbia Printed name of Respondent
Signature of Respondent's Representative
Title
Name of Company
509-382-2577 jennie@portofcolumbia.org Phone number and e-mail address
r none number and e-man address
1 Port Way
Dayton, Washington 99328
Mailing address

Waiver of Hearing by Respondent

