



Memorandum

July 22, 2011

To: Greg Kopta, Director, Administrative Law Division

Thru: David Pratt, Assistant Director, Transportation Safety

From: Kathy Hunter, Deputy Assistant Director, Transportation Safety

Subject: Staff Recommendation to Set Matter for Hearing
TR-111033 – Petition on behalf of the City of Spokane Valley to Modify the Pines Road/State Route 27 (SR-27) Highway-Rail Grade Crossing

On June 6, 2011, the City of Spokane Valley (City) filed a petition with the Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) seeking approval to modify the warning devices and install sidewalks at a highway-rail grade crossing in the City of Spokane Valley. On June 30, 2011, the City filed a revised page to their petition.

On June 21, 2011, UTC staff provided notice of the filing of the petition to Union Pacific Railroad. On July 13, 2011, Union Pacific Railroad responded to the City of Spokane Valley's petition to modify the SR-27 crossing citing that they do not have any objection to the engineering aspects of the proposal however expressed concern about cost allocation (RCW 81.53.110) because Union Pacific Railroad had not privately reached agreement with the City on this issue.

It is staff's observation that much of the roadway reconfiguration and sidewalk improvements that the City outlines in the petition has already been completed. However, none of the corresponding signal upgrades have been done because the City and railroad have been unable to reach agreement on cost allocation.

The City and Union Pacific Railroad have been engaged in discussions over this project for over one year and have been unable to reach agreement on the cost allocation issues. In addition, the crossing is not currently in compliance with crossing design standards in the 2009 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. UTC staff recommends that the petition be set for hearing to address the cost allocation issues.

Attachment 1 – Petition TR-111033 and supporting documents (with revised page 5)
Attachment 2 – Letter from David Pratt to Terrel Anderson
Attachment 3 – Letter to Kathy Hunter from Terrel Anderson