



STATE OF WASHINGTON

UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

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Apr. 25, 2019

Mark L. Johnson, Executive Director and Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

RE: *Petition of Washington State Department of Transportation to Modify Highway-Railroad Grade Crossings, Dockets No. TR-150508, TR-150509, and TR-150624 – Annual Report on Number of Queuing Instances and Impacts and Analysis of Effectiveness of Interconnection between Railroad Signals and Ramp Meter*

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Commission Staff (Staff) has reviewed the compliance filing of the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) dated April 8, 2019, titled *Monitoring of Ramp Meter Interconnections*. This report – the first of a series of required reports - provides updates to the Commission about the number of queuing instances and the impacts and analysis of the effectiveness of the interconnection between the railroad signals and the ramp meter at crossings along the Pt. Defiance Bypass. The first report was due Jan. 31, 2019, with subsequent reports due Jan. 31, 2020, and Jan. 31, 2021.

Though not currently required to do so by Commission Order, WSDOT also reported on the Berkeley Ave. crossing, referenced in Docket TR-143846, at Staff's request. The petition in this docket was filed by the City of Lakewood in 2015. WSDOT later added a ramp meter and interconnected it with the crossing signals, and has been monitoring the crossing for queuing and ramp meter effectiveness.

Staff believes the report submitted by WSDOT on April 8, 2019, satisfies the requirements for the compliance filing due at this time, in these dockets. The required reporting in these dockets

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was intended to coincide with new passenger service operations commencing on the Pt. Defiance Bypass. However, passenger service did not operate on the route in 2018, nor has it operated yet in 2019. WSDOT is awaiting the final report and recommendations from the National Transportation Safety Board investigation into the Dec. 2017 Amtrak derailment before returning passenger service to the route.

WSDOT requests relief from future reporting requirements until such time as passenger service commences on the route. Staff supports this request. Once WSDOT notifies Staff of the date that passenger service is to begin, Staff will meet with WSDOT to discuss reporting requirements and content, and determine specific due dates for each future compliance filing for a three-year period. The parties will then submit those dates to the Commission for approval.

Please contact Betty Young, Rail Safety Program Advisor, at betty.young@utc.wa.gov, or (360) 664-1202 with questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kathy Hunter", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kathy Hunter
Director of Transportation Safety