WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Whatcom County Council Petitioner, vs. Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Respondent	)	DOCKET NO. TR- REVISED-PETITION FOR INSTALLATION OF MEDIAN BARRIERS AT A HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE CROSSING USDOT CROSSING NO.: #084796F

The Petitioner asks the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission to approve installation of median barriers at a highway-rail grade crossing.

Section 1 – Petitioner's Information

Whatcom County
Petitioner

James P. Karcher 4.17.17
Signature

322 North Commercial Street, Suite 301
Street Address

Bellingham, WA 98225
City, State and Zip Code

Mailing Address, if different than the street address

James P. Karcher, P.E. – Engineering Manager
Contact Person Name

(360)778-6271 jkarcher@co.whatcom.wa.us
Contact Phone Number and Email Address

Section 2 – Respondent's Information

Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway
Respondent

2454 Occidental Avenue South, Suite 2D
Street Address

Seattle, WA 98134
City, State and Zip Code

Mailing Address, if different than the street address

Mr. Richard Wagner- Manager Public Projects
Contact Person Name

(206)685-6152 Richard.Wagner@BNSF.com
Contact Phone Number and Email Address

Section 3 – Crossing Location

1. Name of highway/roadway Yacht Club Road
2. Name of railroad BNSF Railway
3. USDOT Crossing No. 084796F
4. Located in the__ 1/4 of the __ 1/4 of Sec. 24 , Twp. 37N , Range 2E__ W.M.
5. GPS location, if known 48.6755733, -122.4892095
6. Railroad mile post (nearest tenth) 89.4
7. City Bellingham County Whatcom

Section 4 – Current Crossing Traffic

1. Type of public road at the crossing ☐ State ☑ County ☐ City

   ☐ Port ☐ State Park ☐ Other _____

2. Average daily vehicle traffic over the tracks 222 Vehicle speed limit 35

3. Number of lanes 2

4. Trucks (commercial vehicles) are what percent of average daily traffic 1%

5. Number of school buses over the crossing each day 0

6. Name of railroad(s) operating at crossing BNSF, AmTrak

   _____

   _____

7. Type of railroad at crossing ☑ Common Carrier ☐ Logging ☐ Industrial

   ☑Passenger ☐ Excursion

8. Type of tracks at crossing ☑ Main Line ☐ Siding or Spur

9. Number of tracks at crossing 1

10. Average daily train traffic, freight 20

    Authorized freight train speed 59 Operated freight train speed 50

11. Average daily train traffic, passenger 2

    Authorized passenger train speed 79 Operated passenger train speed 79

Section 5 – Justification

1. Provide the following information:

a. Describe in detail the why this crossing should have median barriers installed.

Yacht Club Road is a no outlet road that accesses 32 residences. The majority of these residents make up the average daily traffic (ADT) of 111 motorists each way. The residents have been the principal driving force for the implementation of this safety measure and have organized funds for the construction of the median. This community using the crossing is involved, educated and astutely aware of the safety measures being installed and the potential hazards of circumventing the existing and proposed safety measures. The medians will provide a physical deterrent in the absence of the train horn which only provides a warning to motorists. The crossing will maintain the existing warning devices consisting of: two (2) entrance gates, advanced warning signs, bells and the 12 flashing lights. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has calculated the risk, using the their method for calculating potential risk of incident at grade crossings, and the risk index has decreased by nearly 40% with the additions of medians and discontinuation of the train horn.

b. Provide a description of the type of median barriers proposed.

The mountable median will extend 100 feet east of the crossing and 35 feet west of the crossing. The mountable median is constructed of a high strength composite material. It is 10-5/8 inches wide and has a dome shape that is 4 inches tall. The 44 inch sections fasten together and are anchored to the pavement using a nylon expansion molly and 5/8 inch by 6 inch lag screws. The reflective traffic channelization devices are attached to the curb using a rubber boot that slides into a machined groove in the curb at 80 inch intervals. These reflective traffic channelization devices are 40 inches by 8-3/4 inches with 232 square inches of type III reflective sheeting on both sides. The break away reflective traffic channelization devices provide an effective deterent for the typical motorists.

c. Describe who will maintain the barriers.

The proposed barriers will be maintained by Whatcom County Public Works' Maintainance and Operations Division. The barriers will be maintained at the original installed condition and all damage compromising the functionality of the barrier will be corrected immediately. A thorough annual inspection will be conducted to ensure that there is no degredation of the material and the inspection will be documented and provided to the UTC, FRA, or BNSF upon request. After installation of the proposed barrier Whatcom County intends to monitor the site and maintain a clear line of communication to identify and address any violations that may occur during this time. If violations become an issue, Whatcom County recognizes that adjustments may need to be made.

d. Attach a proposed diagram or design of the crossing and median barriers.

Please see the attached plan of the proposed improvements.

Section 6 – Waiver of Hearing by Respondent

Waiver of Hearing

The undersigned represents the Respondent in the petition to install median barriers at the following crossing.

USDOT Crossing No. _____

We have investigated the conditions at the crossing. We are satisfied the conditions are the same as described by the Petitioner in this docket. We agree installation of median barriers should be made and consent to a decision by the commission without a hearing.

Dated at _____ , Washington, on the _____ day of

_____ , 20 __ .

_____

Printed name of Respondent

_____

Signature of Respondent's Representative

_____

Title

_____

Company Name

_____

Phone number and email address

_____

_____

Mailing address