



January 13, 2006

Carole Washburn
Executive Secretary
Washington Utilities & Transportation Committee
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive S.W.
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Re: Docket Nos. TR-04664 and TR-050967

Dear Ms. Washburn:

In follow-up to the pre-hearing conference on January 9, 2006, enclosed is an Amended Petition for former Cause No. TR-050967 which is the Petition to cross the Port of Benton/Tri-City and Olympic Railroad tracks. If you have any questions or need any further information, please let me know.

Very truly yours,

JOHN S. ZIOBRO
City Attorney

JSZ/bl

Enclosure

cc: Tom Cowan (with enclosures)
Brandon Johnson (with enclosures)
Carolyn Larson (with enclosures)
Jonathan Thompson (with enclosures)
Kevin MacDougall (with enclosures)
Bob Hammond (w/o enclosures)
John Darrington (w/o enclosures)
Russ Burtner (w/o enclosures)
Peter Beaudry (w/o enclosures)
Pete Rogalsky (w/o enclosures)

CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

No.

AMENDED
PETITION

Petitioner City of Kennewick

Road Name Center Parkway

vs.

W.U.T.C. Crossing No. _____

Respondent Port of Benton/Tri-City Railroad/BNSF Railway

D.O.T. Crossing No. _____

Application is hereby made to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission for an order (check one or more of the following)

- directing the **construction of a new at** grade crossing;
(**construction**-reconstruction-relocation)
- directing installation of automatic grade crossing signal or other warning device (other than crossbucks) at a new crossing;
- directing **installation** of warning devices at an existing crossing;
(replacement-change-upgrade)
- allocating funds from the "grade crossing protective fund" for _____
_____ of active warning devices; (installation and/or
maintenance)
- authorizing the construction of the project, funding to be pursuant to the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) in cooperation with the Washington State Department of Transportation Local Programs Division;


at the railroad grade crossing identified above and described in this petition. This application seeks the relief specified above by (check one of the following)

- hearing and order**
- order without hearing

[X] [] Has application for funding, pursuant to Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act been made to the Local Programs Division for this project?
Yes No

[] [X] If the answer is yes to the question above, has the funding requested under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act been denied?
Yes No

I certify under penalty of perjury that the information provided in and with this petition is true and correct.


 E. Russell Burtner on behalf of Peter Beaudry, Petitioner
E. Russell Burtner Municipal Services Director
 Print Name Title
210 W. 6th Avenue
 Street Address
Kennewick, WA 99336
 City-State-Zip Code

INTERROGATORIES
Use additional paper as needed

[1]

State name of highway and railway at crossing intersection:

Existing or **proposed** highway Center Parkway mile post N/A

Existing or proposed railway Port of Benton spur west of Richland Junction mile post 18.8

Located in - 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Sec. 30 Twp 9N Range 29E W.M.

WUTC crossing number N/A DOT crossing number N/A

Street Center Parkway (proposed) City Kennewick County Benton
(if applicable) (if applicable)

[2]

Character of crossing (indicate with X or numbers where applicable):

- (a) Common Carrier Logging or Industrial
- (b) Main Line Branch Line Siding or Spur
- (c) Total number of tracks at crossing one
(Note: A track separated 100 feet or more from another track constitutes a separate crossing.)
- (d) Operating maximum train speed: Legal maximum train speed:
Passenger N/A MPH Passenger N/A MPH
Freight 10 MPH Freight 10 MPH
- (e) Actual or estimated train traffic in 24 hours:
Passenger Trains 0 Freight Trains 2-6
(Note: Round trip counted as two trains. Include switch movements.)

[3]

Character of Roadway:

- (a) State Highway - Classification
- (b) County Highway - Classification
- (c) City Street - Classification Center Parkway, when constructed, will be a minor arterial.
- (d) Number of traffic lanes existing in each direction: N/A
Number of additional traffic lanes proposed: Two
- (e) Posted vehicle speed limit: Automobiles 30 MPH Trucks 30 MPH
- (f) Estimated vehicle traffic in 24 hours: Current total N/A including N/A trucks and N/A school bus trips. Projected traffic in 20 years: total 5,500 including 100 trucks and 0 school bus trips.

[4]

- (a) If temporary, state for what purpose crossing is to be used and for how long.

N/A

- (b) If temporary grade crossing, will you remove the crossing at completion of the activity requiring the temporary crossing?

N/A

[5]

- (a) State whether or not a safer location for a grade crossing exists within a reasonable distance in either direction from the proposed point of crossing, and if so, what reason, if any, why this safer location should not be adopted, even though in doing so, it may be necessary to relocate a portion of the highway or railway.

Columbia Center Blvd. is approximately 2000 feet to the east of the proposed crossing and is an existing grade separated crossing. However, Columbia Center Blvd. is at level of service F and does not provide direct access to this portion of a rapidly growing business district. Steptoe Street is approximately 3000 feet to the west, and is an existing at-grade crossing with active warning devices. This area is a rapidly growing business district. As this area develops, coupled with the future extension of Steptoe Street to the south, traffic volumes over this at-grade crossing are going to increase significantly. The extension of Center Parkway and this at-grade crossing will provide superior traffic circulation within the business district and lessen the opportunity for vehicle/train conflicts.

- (b) Are there any hillsides, earth, or other embankments, buildings, trees, orchards, side tracks (on which cars might be spotted), loading platforms, etc., in the vicinity not feasible to move, which may obstruct the view and which can be avoided by relocating the proposed crossing. Would it be practical to do so? Please describe.

The existing siding will be shortened as a part of this project. The Cities of Kennewick and Richland are negotiating with the Union Pacific Rail Road for the elimination of their existing storage tracks and for the relocation of switching operations outside the Kennewick City Limits.

[6]

- (a) Is it feasible to construct and use an over or under crossing at the intersection of said railway and highway? If not, state why.

No. The presence of nearby structures and a PUD electrical sub-station prohibit construction of a grade separated crossing.

- (b) Does the railway line at any point in the vicinity of the proposed crossing pass over a fill or trestle or through a cut where it is feasible to construct an under or over crossing, even though it may be necessary to relocate a portion of the highway to reach that point?

No. The project corridor is very limited.

- (c) If a suitable place for an under - or over - crossing exists in the vicinity of the

proposed crossing, state the distance and direction from the proposed crossing; the approximate cost of construction; and what, if any, reason exists why it should not be constructed. **Please see 6 (a) and (b) above.**

[7]

- (a) State approximate distance to nearest public or private crossing in each direction of railroad involved herein. **Columbia Center Blvd. is approximately 2000 feet to the east of the proposed crossing and is an existing grade separated crossing. Steptoe Street is approximately 3000 feet to the west, and is an existing at-grade crossing with active warning devices.**
- (b) If there is an existing crossing in near vicinity, or if more than one crossing is proposed, is it feasible to divert highways served and to be served by existing and proposed crossings, thus eliminating the need for more than once crossing? **No. The project corridor is limited. The extension of Center Parkway is intended to alleviate congestion on the existing corridors. No alternate routes are available.**
- (c) If so, state approximate cost of highway relocation to effect such changes.
N/A
- (d) Will the proposed crossing eliminate the need for one or more existing crossings in the vicinity? If so, state direction and approximate distance to the crossing or crossings. **No.**
- (e) If this crossing is authorized, do you propose to close any existing crossing or crossings? **No.**

[8]

State the lengths of views which are now available along the line of railway to travelers on the highway when approaching the crossing from either side of the railway and when at points on the highway as follows:

Approaching crossing from **northbound** (direction) an unobstructed view to

right when on highway 300 feet from crossing of **360** feet
right when on highway 200 feet from crossing of **1000+** feet
right when on highway 100 feet from crossing of **1000+**feet
right when on highway 50 feet from crossing of **1000+**feet
right when on highway 25 feet from crossing of **1000+**feet
left when on highway 300 feet from crossing of **210** feet
left when on highway 200 feet from crossing of **250** feet
left when on highway 100 feet from crossing of **480** feet
left when on highway 50 feet from crossing of **1000+**feet
left when on highway 25 feet from crossing of **1000+**feet

Approaching crossing from **southbound** (opposite direction) an obstructed view to

right when on highway 300 feet from crossing of **1000+**feet (may change with development)
right when on highway 200 feet from crossing of **1000+**feet (may change with development)
right when on highway 100 feet from crossing of **1000+**feet
right when on highway 50 feet from crossing of **1000+**feet
right when on highway 25 feet from crossing of **1000+**feet

left when on highway 300 feet from crossing of 200 feet
left when on highway 200 feet from crossing of 300 feet
left when on highway 100 feet from crossing of 1000+feet
left when on highway 50 feet from crossing of 1000+feet
left when on highway 25 feet from crossing of 1000+feet

[9]

Attach one or more prints showing a vicinity map and a layout of railway and highway, as well as profiles of each, also showing percent of grade, 500 feet of highway and railway when approaching crossing from all four directions. On the prints, spot and identify obstructions of view located in all four quadrants. Provide a traffic control layout showing the location of the existing and proposed signing of the intersection. **A drawing is attached showing the locations of the proposed at-grade crossings. The crossings will be constructed in accordance with the latest FRA guidelines. Signing will be installed in accordance with the latest MUTCD guidelines.**

[10]

- (a) Is it feasible to provide a 25 foot level grade crossing on both sides from center line of railway at point of crossing? **No.**
- (b) If not, state in feet the length of level grade it is feasible to obtain. **The roadway will be in a vertical curve. The existing rails are in a horizontal curve and are not level. Grades will be approximately 0.5% - 1.5% at 25-feet either side of the rails.**
- (c) Is it feasible to obtain an approach grade, prior to the level grade of five percent or less? If not, state why, and state the percent approach grade possible. **The northbound approach grade will be 0.4%. Due to the topography and the existing intersection at Tapteal Drive that will need to be met, an approach grade of 6% is required. Please note that this portion of the proposed Center Parkway has already been partially constructed.**

[11]

Do you know of any reason not appearing in any of the answers to these interrogatories why the proposed crossing should not be made at grade or at the point proposed by you? If so, please state same fully. **No.**

Interrogatories 12 and 13 are to be completed only if this petition involves installation, replacement or changing of automatic grade signal or other warning device, other than sawbucks.

[12]

- (a) State in detail, the number and type of automatic signals or other warning devices (other than sawbucks) proposed to be installed. (This portion should be filled in only after conference between the railroad and the petitioning local governmental agency.)
- (b) State an estimate of the cost for installing the signals or other devices proposed, as obtained from the respondent railroad company. . . \$ _____
- (c) State a cost estimate for maintaining the signals or devices for 12 months, as obtained from the respondent railroad company . . . \$ _____

- (d) If this is an existing crossing, what will the proposed warning devices replace in the way of existing devices?
- (e) As the petitioner, are you prepared to pay or will you promise to pay to the respondent railroad company, your share of the cost of installing the warning devices proposed as provided by law?

Yes No

[13]

Provide any additional information supporting the proposal (i.e. what public benefits would be derived from its implementation?)