



PUBLIC WORK DEPARTMENT (509) 543-5738 / FAX (509) 543-5737
P.O. Box 293 (525 North 3rd Avenue) Pasco, Washington 99301 / www.pasco-wa.gov

August 12, 2015

Kathy Hunter, Deputy Assistant Director, Transportation Safety
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
PO Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

**RE: USDOT 923015P – At-grade Crossing at E Road 40
Request to Extend Approval of Docket #TR-121467 Order 1 for 2 Years**

RECEIVED
RECORDS MANAGEMENT
2015 AUG 14 AM 8:16
STATE OF WASH.
UTIL. AND TRANSP.
COMMISSION

Dear Ms. Hunter:

In 2013, the City and the Port of Pasco completed construction of a rail spur from the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) mainline all the way to Road 40 East. Road 40 East dissects what is commonly known as the Heritage Industrial Center, which is approximately 430 acres of light to medium industrial property.

In January of 2013, the City applied for approval to construct an at-grade rail crossing in Pasco, WA (USDOT 923015P). The application was driven by interest from a large food processing company who, at the time, identified its preferred location on the east side of Road 40 East. The food processing company is a rail user and, therefore, required an at-grade extension of the existing rail spur across Road 40 East to the site.

After the application was made, the UTC granted the City a two-year window to construct the at-grade crossing under the conditions described in Docket TR-121467. Unfortunately, the large food processing company pulled out of the deal and, consequently, no crossing or signalization was ever constructed across Road 40 East. The rail spur currently stops west of the Road 40 right-of-way.

However, the City recently received an inquiry from Progress Rail who assembles switch parts for BNSF. Progress Rail identified the exact same site as the food processing company had as their preferred location. They are also a rail user and will also require extension of the existing rail spur across Road 40 East to the site.

The two year window granted in Order 1 under Docket TR-121467 expired on January 30, 2015. However, the City of Pasco is respectfully requesting that the UTC consider extending the approval for two additional years (until January 30, 2017), with the same approval conditions, due to this new interest in the site from Progress Rail.

Additionally, Heritage Industrial Center was recently selected by BNSF to be considered for its Preferred Site Program and it was BNSF who directed Progress Rail to the Heritage Industrial Center.

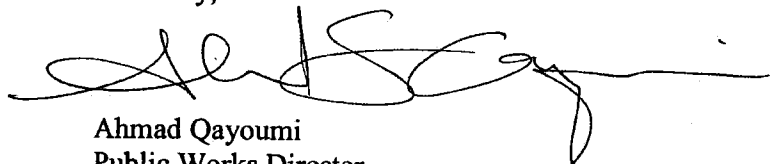
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I will make myself available to discuss this matter with you further, if necessary. I can be reached at (509) 543-5738. If I am unavailable, please feel free to schedule a meeting or phone conference with my assistant Precilla.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ahmad Qayoumi', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ahmad Qayoumi
Public Works Director

AQ/pma

cc: C. Laird