



# Engineering Department

January 19, 1995

**Re: Comments Regarding Proposed Increased Train Speeds Through Marysville**

### Private Crossings

While WSDOT proposes to improve 10 public railroad crossings within the City, (mostly by upgrading of activation circuits), we are concerned about safety conditions at the (approx. 7) private crossings for which no mitigation improvements are proposed. For these crossings, the margin of safety which presently exists will be reduced proportionately to the increase in train speed. This will be especially significant between MP 41.0 and 43.3 where train speeds will increase from 25 to 79 MPH. The safety at these private crossings is further reduced by the approach grades (which are usually steeper than public crossings), the lack of warning devices and less frequent maintenance.

### Increased Rail Trips

By 1999, expanding passenger service will increase the number of trips through Marysville by 6. This increased number of trips could increase the likelihood of an accident either at a crossing or along the Railroad alignment through Marysville. Any proposed increase in the number of freight trains per day would further increase the likelihood of an accident.

### Increased Traffic

Marysville is growing and will experience significant increases in traffic. With increases in traffic, the likelihood of an accident increases. According to the Transpo Traffic Model and Transportation Study, the following approximate increases in traffic are predicted to occur in the vicinity of some key Railroad crossing intersections:

Crossing	1989 Approx. Vehicles Per Day	2010 Approx. Vehicles Per Day	% Increase
136th St.	3,400	8,400	147 %
116th St.	14,200	15,100	6.3 %
88th St.	4,500	47,500	956 %
80th St.	3,900	3,200	-18 %
Grove St	6,600	14,500	120 %
4th St	35,800	39,200	9.5 %

### Proximity to State Ave

For much of its length through the City, the BN Railroad tracks are adjacent to State Ave. State Ave. is designated as a Principal Arterial for most of its length and is projected to carry between 12,000 to 19,000 vehicles per day in the year 2010. Since the BN tracks are so close to this major traffic artery, any collision debris, or hazardous material spills due to an accident could threaten vehicular & pedestrian traffic on State Ave.

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