

August 27, 2003

Carole J. Washburn, Executive Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W.
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

RE: BNSF crossing at Zehnder Street in Sumner

Dear Ms. Washburn:

I am writing in response to your letter to Mayor Skinner dated August 18, 2003. The matter pending before the Commission was discussed with the City Council on Monday evening at their study session. The City of Sumner is not opposed to your staff's recommendations, but the safety issue and appropriate speed of trains is a decision of the WUTC by state law, not the City of Sumner.

With the completion of Puyallup Street, Council approved an amendment to our code in July and eliminated Zehnder/Wood/Elm as a truck route. That ordinance is now in effect. This will substantially reduce the number of long vehicles using this crossing.

Sumner is and has been very supportive of Sound Transit and freight mobility within the region for economic viability. We understand that the completion of safety measures at the crossings is a vital element of the effort to increase the capacity of the tracks. I am attaching a letter I sent to Sound Transit recently that explains our position on this matter. I am concerned about the June 20, 2004 deadline. If we start tomorrow, it will be difficult to meet this date, although we are willing to play our part and make this happen as soon as possible.

Sincerely

William J. Shoemaker, P.E.
Public Works Director

Cc: Barbara Skinner, Mayor
Andrew Neiditz, City Administrator
Ahmer Nizam, WUTC
Mike Cowles, BNSF

Barbara Gilliland, Sound Transit