BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MOUNT VERNON, WASHINGTON	)	DOCKET NO. TR-
	)	
	)	PETITION FOR INSTALLATION OF EXEMPT
Petitioner,	)	SIGNS AT A HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE
	)	CROSSINGS
vs.	)	
	)	USDOT No.
MOUNT VERNON TERMINAL RR	)	
	)	WUTC No.
Respondent	)	
. . . .	)	

The City of Mount Vernon asks the Commission to enter an order authorizing the installation of EXEMPT signs at a highway-rail grade crossing at 3rd Street in Mount Vernon, Washington:

1. Identifying information for the grade crossings:

Railway information: Mount Vernon Terminal Railroad Company

Frequency of trains (per day or week):   _10-12 per week_

Maximum Train Speed: _10 mph_

Do train crews stop and flag all trains across the roadway or do they proceed through the crossing without stopping??

They proceed without stopping

Highway information: 3rd Street

ADT: _15,000 currently (increase of 7,000 AADT anticipated)_
       See item #2 – Project Justification

Percent trucks: _2%_

Number of school bus trips per day: _50 – 75 currently_
       We anticipate an additional 25 school bus crossings per day
       See item #2 – Project Justification

Roadway Speed Limit: _25 mph_
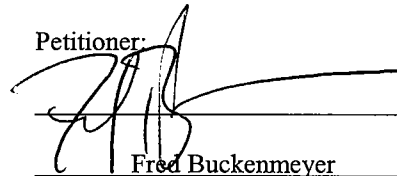
2. Project description and justification:

    (a) Proposed changes: <u>*To install R15-3 (EXEMPT) signs at the 3rd Street /*</u>
<u>*Mount Vernon Terminal railway crossing for the duration of the WSDOT*</u>
<u>*overpass replacement project, approximately 18 months*</u>

    (b) Justification for changes: <u>*Beginning in June 2004, WSDOT will begin the*</u>
<u>*demolition and replacement of the existing second street overpass on*</u>
<u>*Interstate 5. Approximately 13,000 vehicles per day use this overpass.*</u>
<u>*These vehicles will be displaced for approximately 18 months. While it is*</u>
<u>*difficult to predict, it is anticipated that 50% of these trips [6,500] will*</u>
<u>*utilize Freeway Drive to gain access to the downtown and Interstate*</u>
<u>*Highway, thus increasing the volume to nearly 20,000 vehicles per day on*</u>
<u>*Freeway Drive. In addition there will be periodic detours of the interstate*</u>
<u>*through Mount Vernon utilizing Freeway Drive as a detour route. The*</u>
<u>*anticipated increase in school bus crossings is 25 per day due to the*</u>
<u>*detour. The existing private crossing is used infrequently compared to the*</u>
<u>*mainline railway; however school buses must still stop. Construction will*</u>
<u>*exacerbate the situation.*</u>

    (c) Effects of proposed changes on the method and manner of the crossings: <u>*Trains*</u>
<u>*will be flagged through the crossing for the duration of the exemption*</u>

I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated at Mount Vernon Washington this 31st day of March , 2004.

Petitioner:

By:

Fred Buckenmeyer

City of Mount Vernon

WAIVER OF HEARING BY RESPONDENT

The respondent has investigated the conditions existing at and in the vicinity of the grade crossing described herein and is satisfied that such conditions are substantially as described in the petition. Respondent consents to the modification of the crossing surface. Hearing in this proceeding is hereby waived.

Dated at _____, Washington, on the _____ day of _____, 2004.

Respondent:

_____

By: _____

_____

_____
(Address)

INSTRUCTIONS

Petitioner can be the railroad, the road authority or the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission. If the railroad is the petitioner, the road authority will be the respondent. If the road authority is the petitioner, the railroad will be the respondent.

The original and two copies of the petition must be filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission.

If the waiver of hearing is executed, the petition will be investigated and a decision made within approximately two weeks from receipt of the documents.

If the waiver of hearing is not executed on the petition filed, a copy of the petition will be served upon the respondent by the Commission for answer within 20 days. Upon receipt of respondent's answer or after the 20 day period has elapsed, the application will be processed. Time for making a decision will depend on whether an answer is filed and the content of the answer.