



**Washington State  
Department of Transportation**  
**Douglas B. MacDonald**  
Secretary of Transportation

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STATE OF WASH  
UTIL. AND TRANSP.  
COMMISSION

April 5, 2006

Vicki Elliot  
Assistant Director Transportation Safety  
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
PO Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Subject: Petition for Reconstruction of a Grade Crossing

Dear Ms. Elliot:

Please docket and initiate proceedings for the enclosed petition for reconstruction of a railroad grade crossing at SR-17 in Moses Lake, Washington. I am also copying Tim Marshall of the Columbia Basin Railroad Company to facilitate the railroad's review and waiver of hearing in this matter.

I am available to meet with you at any time to discuss this project or petition. Please contact me at (360) 705-7271 if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Ahmer Nizam  
WSDOT Railroad Liaison

cc: Tim Marshall, CBRR  
Al Belamy, CBRR

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

	)	DOCKET NO. TR- <u>060535</u>
<b>The Washington State Department</b>	)	
<b>of Transportation</b>	)	PETITION FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF A
	)	HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE CROSSING
Petitioner,	)	
	)	
vs.	)	
	)	WUTC CROSSING NO. 34B SE 16.1
<b>Columbia Basin Railroad Company</b>	)	
	)	USDOT CROSSING NO. 396983B
Respondent.	)	
.....	)	

Petition is hereby made to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission for an order authorizing the reconstruction of a grade crossing at the crossing identified above and described in this petition:

**1. Identifying information for the crossing**

- a. Existing roadway: SR-17
- b. Existing railway: Columbia Basin Railroad Company
- c. WUTC Crossing Number: 34B SE 16.1
- d. USDOT Number: 396983B

**2. Character of rail line**

- a. Is this a main line, branch line, siding or spur? Branch Line
- b. Do passenger trains use the crossing? No
- c. Legal maximum speed for passenger and/or freight trains: 10 MPH
- d. Actual or estimated train traffic in 24 hours: 1 round trip/week

**3. Character of Roadway**

- a. Government agency responsible for maintaining the road: WSDOT
- b. Number of traffic lanes in each direction. One active lane and one bus/truck pull-out lane in each direction.

- c. Number of traffic lanes in each direction that would exist after the project completion: Westbound: two 12' lanes. Eastbound: three 12' lanes. No bis/truck pullout lanes are proposed.
- d. Posted vehicle speed limit for cars and trucks: 50 mph
- e. Estimated vehicle traffic in 24 hours: 15,000
- f. Is the crossing part of a truck route? Yes

**4. Type (e.g. wood plank, concrete, asphalt) and length of the current crossing surface:** Currently 122' asphalt surface

**5. Project description:**

The Washington State Department of Transportation will reconstruct SR-17 in Moses Lake, Washington in the vicinity of its at-grade intersection with the tracks of the Columbia Basin Railroad Company. The roadway section crossing the tracks currently consists of one active lane and one bus/truck pull-out lane in each direction of travel. The SR-17 reconstruction project will widen the existing roadway by adding an additional lane in each direction. (See Attached Plans). Changes to the grade crossing necessitated by the project include installing new railroad warning signals, upgrading train detection circuitry, and resurfacing the existing asphalt grade crossing surface with concrete panels.

**6. Existing warning system**

- a. Describe existing warning devices at the crossing:  
Warning devices at the crossing include "rotatable" cantilever-mounted flashing light signals.
- b. Describe the type of existing crossing circuitry, if any: AC/DC-Type

**7. How would the project affect warning devices at the crossing?** The existing warning devices will be replaced with cantilever-mounted signals with gates, and train detection circuitry will be upgraded to SCX-1 type circuitry.

**Note:** Due to certain design restrictions on the part of both CBRR and WSDOT, the gate on the eastbound approach to the crossing will only cover 6', 9" of the innermost lane. Because the project is being designed according to these restrictions, the less than 90% gate coverage does not constitute a violation of Title 49, CFR Part 234 .223.03.

**8. Drawings.** Sketches drawn to scale are attached accurately showing the current and proposed layout of the highway (including shoulders, sidewalks, lanes of travel, bike lanes and crossing warning devices), of the crossing surface and of the railway in the vicinity of the crossing. If highway grades will be changed, sketches drawn to scale accurately displaying the existing and proposed highway profile for 50 feet on each side of the crossing should also be attached.


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

Dated at Olympia, Washington this 5<sup>th</sup> day of April 2006.

Petitioner:

Washington State Department of  
Transportation

By: Ahmer Nizam, HQ RR Liaison

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
PO Box 47329, Olympia, WA 98504

**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 as proposed by petitioner. Hearing in this proceeding is hereby waived.

Dated at \_\_\_\_\_, Washington, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2006.

Respondent:

Columbia Basin Railroad Company

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.