

TR-060838(P)



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2006 MAY -5 AM 7:17

STATE OF WASH.  
WUTC

May 2, 2006

Steve Mullen  
Transportation Engineering Manger  
City of Kent  
220 Fourth Avenue South  
Kent, WA 98032

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RECORDS MANAGEMENT  
06 MAY -5 AM 9:13  
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**RE: BNSF Signal Operations in Kent WA**

Mr. Mullen:

BNSF is preparing to implement changes to the activation circuitry of the highway-rail grade crossing warning devices (gates) at James, Meeker, and Gowe Streets in the City of Kent. These changes will impact gate operation when Sound Transit commuter trains are stopped at the station platform. We have previously discussed these proposed modifications at our meeting in November.

The proposed gate operations for James, Meeker, and Gowe Streets would resemble those currently in place for Smith Street. The James Street gates would be held down (they would not recover when the train stopped at the station, and then reactivate upon movement of the train toward the crossing) during north bound Sounder movements which included a station stop. The Meeker and Gowe Street gates would be held down during southbound Sounder movements. We anticipate this will be less than one minute of additional time for gate activation. This design is in compliance with Federal Railroad Administration requirements for gate operation. The gates at the Smith Street crossing are currently held down during Sounder operations to accommodate ADA access to the Sounder train set.

BNSF intends to implement these modifications 30 days from the date of this letter. Prior to implementation, we would like to meet with you to explain these changes to the highway-rail grade crossing warning devices. Please contact me to discuss this matter in further detail and to arrange for a meeting on-site.

Respectfully,

Danniel MacDonald

cc. John Houston (BNSF - via email)  
Doug Werner (BNSF - via email)  
John Shurson (BNSF - via email)  
Vicki Elliott (WUTC)