

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

	)	DOCKET NO. TR- 081391-P
	)	
<b>CITY OF PALOUSE</b>	)	PETITION TO CONSTRUCT OR
_____	)	RECONSTRUCT A HIGHWAY-RAIL
Petitioner,	)	GRADE CROSSING ALONG
	)	<b>WHITMAN STREET,</b>
vs.	)	<b>(Bridge St to Hall Street)</b>
<b>WSDOT – Freight Rail Division</b>	)	
<b>(Washington-Idaho Railroad Line)</b>	)	
_____	)	
Respondent	)	
	)	
.....	)	

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 UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

The Petitioner asks the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission to approve construction or reconstruction of a highway-rail grade crossing.

Construction       Reconstruction

**Section 1 – Petitioner’s Information**

<b>CITY OF PALOUSE</b>
Petitioner
<b>P. O. Box 248 City Hall on Main Street</b>
Street Address
<b>Palouse, WA. 99161</b>
City, State and Zip Code
_____
Mailing Address, if different than the street address
<b>Mayor Michael Echanove</b>
Contact Person Name
<b>(509) 878-1811 cityclerk@palouse.com (Joyce Beeson)</b>
Contact Phone Number and E-mail Address

**Section 2 – Respondent's Information**

Respondent #1  
**WASHINGTON STATE DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**STATE RAIL OFFICE - Freight Systems Division**  
**310 Maple Park Avenue S.E.**  
**P. O. Box 47407**

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Street Address  
**Olympia, WA. 98504-7407**

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City, State and Zip Code

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Mailing Address, if different than the street address  
**Michael E. Rowswell, Special Initiatives Manager**

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Contact Person Name **360-280-4540 & Fax# 360-705-6821**

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**rowswem@wsdot.wa.gov**  
Contact Phone Number and E-mail Address

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Respondent #2 **Washington-Idaho Railroad Line – c/o WSDOT**  
(Railroad) **Les Hancock, Manager (509)443-9479 – wirailway@yahoo.com**  
**Marshall, Washington**

**Section 3 – Proposed Crossing Location**

1. Existing highway/roadway **Whitman Street (SR#27 to Hall Street)**

2. Existing railroad **Along Whitman Street (SR#27 to Hall Street)**

3. Location of proposed crossing:  
Located in the **NE** 1/4 of the **1/4** of Sec. **1** \_\_\_\_\_, Twp. **16 N**, Range **45E** \_\_\_\_\_ W.M.

4. GPS location, if known \_\_\_\_\_

5. Railroad mile post (nearest tenth) **26+50 to 34+50 Along Whitman Street**

6. City **Palouse** \_\_\_\_\_ County **Whitman** \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 4 – Proposed Crossing Information**

1. Railroad company Washington-Idaho Railroad Line (c/o WSDOT)

2. Type of railroad at crossing     Common Carrier     Logging     Industrial  
 Passenger     Excursion     Freight

3. Type of tracks at crossing     Main Line     Siding or Spur

4. Number of tracks at crossing One

5. Average daily train traffic, freight Weekly?  
Authorized freight train speed \_\_\_\_\_ Operated freight train speed \_\_\_\_\_

6. Average daily train traffic, passenger N/A  
Authorized passenger train speed \_\_\_\_\_ Operated passenger train speed \_\_\_\_\_

7. Will the proposed crossing eliminate the need for one or more existing crossings?  
Yes Yes    No

8. If so, state the distance and direction from the proposed crossing.  
***Traffic will travel along both sides of tracks rather than along the tracks. The only very limited crossings will be when one side of the traffic will cross to the other lane over the tracks.***  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. Does the petitioner propose to close any existing crossings?  
Yes X    No

**Section 5 – Temporary Crossing**

1. Is the crossing proposed to be temporary?      Yes \_\_\_\_      No **X**\_\_\_\_
2. If so, describe the purpose of the crossing and the estimated time it will be needed  
**Vehicle / Track separation is the intent of this proposed improvement.**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Will the petitioner remove the crossing at completion of the activity requiring the temporary crossing?      Yes \_\_\_\_      No \_\_\_\_
- Approximate date of removal \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 6 – Current Highway Traffic Information**

1. Name of roadway/highway **Whitman Street**
2. Roadway classification **Local Collector**
3. Road authority **City of Palouse**
4. Average annual daily traffic (AADT) **150 ADT**
5. Number of lanes **Two (2)**
6. Roadway speed **Under 25 mph**
7. Is the crossing part of an established truck route?      Yes \_\_\_\_      No **No**\_\_\_\_
8. If so, trucks are what percent of total daily traffic? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Is the crossing part of an established school bus route?      Yes **X**\_\_\_\_      No \_\_\_\_
10. If so, how many school buses travel over the crossing each day? **4 Estimated**
11. Describe any changes to the information in 1 through 7, above, expected within ten years:  
**None is Expected**

*Section 7 – Alternatives to the Proposal*

1. Does a safer location for a crossing exist within a reasonable distance of the proposed location?

Yes  No

2. If a safer location exists, explain why the crossing should not be located at that site.

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3. Are there any hillsides, embankments, buildings, trees, railroad loading platforms or other barriers in the vicinity which may obstruct a motorist's view of the crossing?

Yes  No

4. If a barrier exists, describe:

- ◆ Whether petitioner can relocate the crossing to avoid the obstruction and if not, why not.
- ◆ How the barrier can be removed.
- ◆ How the petitioner or another party can mitigate the hazard caused by the barrier.

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5. Is it feasible to construct an over-crossing or under-crossing at the proposed location as an alternative to an at-grade crossing?

Yes  No

6. If an over-crossing or under-crossing is not feasible, explain why.

*No room to build a crossing and simply not applicable*

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7. Does the railway line, at any point in the vicinity of the proposed crossing, pass over a fill area or trestle or through a cut where it is feasible to construct an over-crossing or an under-crossing, even though it may be necessary to relocate a portion of the roadway to reach that point?

Yes  No

8. If such a location exists, state:

- ◆ The distance and direction from the proposed crossing.
- ◆ The approximate cost of construction.
- ◆ Any reasons that exist to prevent locating the crossing at this site.

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9. Is there an existing public or private crossing in the vicinity of the proposed crossing?

Yes  No

10. If a crossing exists, state:

- ◆ The distance and direction from the proposed crossing.
- ◆ Whether it is feasible to divert traffic from the proposed to the existing crossing.

*At three (2) locations; Beach Street & Hall Street*

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**Section 8 – Sight Distance**

1. Complete the following table, describing the sight distance for motorists when approaching the tracks from either direction. **No changes in grade is proposed.**

a. Approaching the crossing from East, the current approach provides an unobstructed view as follows: (North, South, East, West)

Direction of sight (left or right)	Number of feet from proposed crossing	Provides an unobstructed view for how many feet
Right	300	
Right	200	
Right	100	
Right	50	
Right	25	
<b>Left</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>300 feet going east</b>
Left	200	
Left	100	
Left	50	
Left	25	

b. Approaching the crossing from West, the current approach provides an unobstructed view as follows: (Opposite direction-North, South, East, West)

Direction of sight (left or right)	Number of feet from proposed crossing	Provides an unobstructed view for how many feet
Right	300	
Right	200	
Right	100	
Right	50	
Right	25	
<b>Left</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>300 feet going west</b>
Left	200	
Left	100	
Left	50	
Left	25	

2. Will the new crossing provide a level approach measuring 25 feet from the center of the railway on both approaches to the crossing?

Yes  X  No    

3. If not, state in feet the length of level grade from the center of the railway on both approaches to the crossing. \_\_\_\_\_

4. Will the new crossing provide an approach grade of not more than five percent prior to the level grade?

Yes  X  No

3. If not, state the percentage of grade prior to the level grade and explain why the grade exceeds five percent.

***0.5% Grade along railroad tracks and Whitman Street***

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***Section 9 – Illustration of Proposed Crossing Configuration***

Attach a detailed diagram, drawing, map or other illustration showing the following:

- ◆ The vicinity of the proposed crossing.
- ◆ Layout of the railway and highway 500 feet adjacent to the crossing in all directions.
- ◆ Percent of grade.
- ◆ Obstructions of view as described in Section 7 or identified in Section 8.
- ◆ Traffic control layout showing the location of the existing and proposed signage.

***Section 10 – Proposed Warning Signals or Devices***

1. Explain in detail the number and type of automatic signals or other warning devices planned at the proposed crossing, including a cost estimate for each.

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***The proposed warning is limited to ground and side signs as illustrated on the attached plans.***

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***The cost for the signs will be paid by project City funds.***

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2. Provide an estimate for maintaining the signals for 12 months. N/A (Sings only no signals)

3. Is the petitioner prepared to pay to the respondent railroad company its share of installing the warning devices as provided by law?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No X \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 11 – Additional Information**

Provide any additional information supporting the proposal, including information such as the public benefits that would be derived from constructing a new crossing as proposed.

\_\_\_\_\_

***The existing tracks are situated in the middle and the south lane of Whitman Street.***

\_\_\_\_\_

***The proposed plan is to separate the tracks from the vehicle travel lanes.***

\_\_\_\_\_

***The final configuration is to provide a lane on either side of the tracks and avoid the Continued travel over the tracks. Please refer to before and after attached site plans.***

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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*Section 12A – Waiver of Hearing by Respondent*

**Waiver of Hearing (WHITMAN STREET, Bridge to Hall Street)**

The undersigned represents the Respondent in the petition to construct or reconstruct a highway-railroad grade crossing.

We have investigated the conditions at the proposed or existing crossing site. We are satisfied the conditions are the same as described by the Petitioner in this docket. We agree crossing be installed or reconstructed and consent to a decision by the commission without a hearing.

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

\_\_\_\_\_, 20 08 .  
**WASHINGTON STATE DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**STATE RAIL OFFICE - Freight Systems Division**  
**310 Maple Park Avenue S.E.**  
**P. O. Box 47407**  
**Olympia, WA. 98504-7407**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Michael E. Rowswell, Special Initiatives Manager**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name of Respondent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Respondent's Representative

**Michael E. Rowswell, Special Initiatives Manager**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title  
**360-280-4540 & Fax# 360-705-6821**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number and e-mail address  
**rowswem@wsdot.wa.gov**

**WASHINGTON STATE DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**STATE RAIL OFFICE - Freight Systems Division**  
**310 Maple Park Avenue S.E.**  
**P. O. Box 47407**  
**Olympia, WA. 98504-7407**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Michael E. Rowswell, Special Initiatives Manager**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing address

*Section 12B – Waiver of Hearing by Respondent*

**Waiver of Hearing**

The undersigned represents the Respondent in the petition to construct or reconstruct a highway-railroad grade crossing.

We have investigated the conditions at the proposed or existing crossing site. We are satisfied the conditions are the same as described by the Petitioner in this docket. We agree crossing be installed or reconstructed and consent to a decision by the commission without a hearing.

Dated at Marshall, Washington, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of  
July, 20 08.

**(Railroad Operator)**

*Washington-Idaho Railroad Line – c/o WSDOT  
Les Hancock, Manager (509)443-9479 – [wirailway@yahoo.com](mailto:wirailway@yahoo.com)  
Marshall, Washington*

Les J. Hancock  
Printed name of Respondent

Les J. Hancock  
Signature of Respondent's Representative

Les Hancock, Manager

Title  
509-443-9479

Phone number and e-mail address  
[wirailway@yahoo.com](mailto:wirailway@yahoo.com)

**(Rail Owner)**

**WASHINGTON STATE DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION  
STATE RAIL OFFICE - Freight Systems Division  
310 Maple Park Avenue S.E.  
P. O. Box 47407  
Olympia, WA. 98504-7407  
Michael E. Rowswell, Special Initiatives Manager**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing address

NEW TRACK CURVE DATA

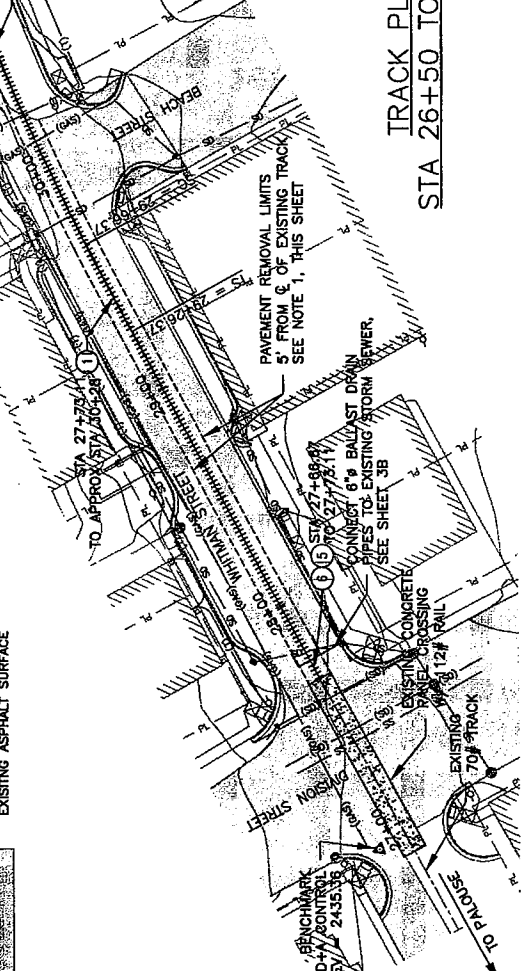
CURVE NO.	STATIONING	POINT	TOTAL A	D	R	T	L	Δap	Le
C-0B	29+26.37	TS						1'00"00"	40.00'
	29+86.37	SC							
	30+81.97	TS	12'17"54"	5°00'08"	1145.92'	123.46'	245.89'		
	32+12.59	CS							
	32+52.26	ST						1'00"00"	40.00'

**LEGEND**

----- EXISTING TRACK  
 ##### NEW TRACK  
 PL EXISTING PROPERTY LINE  
 (GAS) EXISTING GAS LINE  
 (T) EXISTING UNDERGROUND TELEPHONE  
 (SS) EXISTING SANITARY SEWER  
 (SD) EXISTING STORM DRAIN  
 SD PROPOSED STORM DRAIN - SEE CIVIL PLANS  
 R/W EXISTING RIGHT-OF-WAY  
 & EXISTING ASPHALT SURFACE

**NOTE:**

1. EXISTING PAVEMENT SHALL REMAIN IN PLACE AROUND EXISTING TRACK TO SAWCUT LIMITS SHOWN UNTIL TRACK IS PERFORMED.  
 2. STATIONING IS APPROXIMATE AND IS BASED ON STATIONING OF ADJACENT TRACKS. THE LOCATION SWITCH IS MP 0.0 AND MILES INCREASE EASTWARD. MP 0.00 - STATION 0+00. ("MIM LINE" ORIGINAL STATIONING RUNS REVERSE OF MILEPOSTS IN THIS AREA)



**CONSTRUCTION NOTES**

- ① REMOVE TRACK/ROAD CROSSING SURFACE PER SPEC SECTION 02225
- ② CHANGE OUT CROSS TIES PER SPEC SECTION 02451
- ③ FURNISH AND INSTALL COMPROMISE WELD ARRANGEMENT PER SPEC SECTION 02451
- ④ FURNISH AND INSTALL RUBBER INTERFACE CROSSING PER SPEC SECTION 02459
- ⑤ REMOVE ASPHALT CONCRETE PAVEMENT OVER EXISTING TRACK PER SPEC SECTION 02200
- ⑥ FURNISH AND INSTALL RUBBER INTERFACE ON EXISTING RAIL PER SPEC SECTION 02459
- ⑦ REMOVE TRACK PER SPEC SECTION 02225

**TRACK PLAN**  
 STA 26+50 TO 34+50

FILE NAME	REGIONAL PROJ. NO.	DATE	DATE	BY	REVISION
TIME	FED. AID PROJ. NO.	10 WASH	CONTRACT NO.	DATE	BY
DESIGNED BY	JOB NUMBER	CONTRACT NO.	DATE	BY	REVISION
ENTERED BY	LOCATION NO.	DATE	BY	REVISION	
CHECKED BY					
PROJ. ENGR.					
REGIONAL PROJ. NO.					

Washington State  
Department of Transportation

HR  
ENGINEERING INC.

WHITMAN STREET TRACK  
PALOUSE, WA

TRACK PLAN

SHEET 1 B



