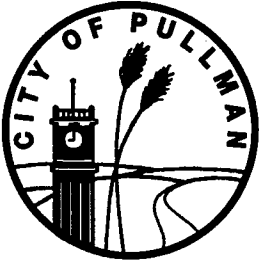


TR-082212



CITY OF PULLMAN

Public Works and Planning Departments

325 S.E. Paradise Street, Pullman, WA 99163
(509) 338-3220 or (509) 338-3213 Fax (509) 338-3282
www.pullman-wa.gov

December 9, 2008

Kathy Hunter
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW
PO Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

2008 DEC 11 AM 8:10
WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Re: Petition for railroad crossing on Johnson Avenue in Pullman, Washington

Dear Kathy,

The first of two petitions we have discussed is attached for consideration by the commission. We are sending the same materials to the respondents in the hope they will file waivers of hearing. Please let me know when you plan your site visit. I would be pleased to join you and look forward to meeting in person. Thank you for your assistance through the process.

Sincerely,

Dale R. Rogers
Senior Engineering Technician

drr/drr
encl.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

)	DOCKET NO. TR-082212
)	
City of Pullman)	PETITION TO OPEN A
_____)	PEDESTRIAN RAIL CROSSING
Petitioner,)	
)	
vs.)	
Washington State Department of)	
Transportation – Rail and Marine Division)	
_____)	
Respondent)	
)	
<u>Washington and Idaho Railway Company</u>)	
Respondent)	
.....)	

The Petitioner asks the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission approve construction of an at grade pedestrian railroad crossing as described in this petition.

Section 1 – Petitioner’s Information

City of Pullman

Petitioner
325 SE Paradise Street

Street Address
Pullman, WA 99163

City, State and Zip Code

Mailing Address, if different than the street address
Dale Rogers

Contact Person Name
509 338 3214 509 339 5012 cell dale.rogers@pullman-wa.gov

Contact Phone Number and E-mail Address

Section 2 – Respondent's Information

Washington State Department of Transportation – Rail and Marine Division Respondent
PO Box 47407 Street Address
Olympia, WA 98504-7407 City, State and Zip Code
Mailing Address, if different than the street address
Michael E. Rowswell, Special Initiatives Manager Contact Person Name
360 705 7930 360 280 4540 cell rowswem@wsdot.wa.gov Contact Phone Number and E-mail Address

Washington and Idaho Railway Company Respondent
PO Box 154 Street Address
Marshal, WA 99020 City, State and Zip Code
Mailing Address, if different than the street address
Stan Patterson, General Manager Contact Person Name
208 290 8148 Contact Phone Number and E-mail Address

Section 3 – Crossing Location

Section 5 – Current Highway Traffic Information

1. Name of roadway/highway	<u>Johnson Avenue Path</u>
2. Roadway classification	<u>Bike/Pedestrian Path</u>
3. Road authority	<u>City of Pullman</u>
4. Average annual daily traffic (AADT)	<u>N/A</u>
5. Number of lanes	<u>10' wide paved path</u>
6. Roadway speed	<u>N/A</u>
7. Is the crossing part of an established truck route?	Yes _____ No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8. If so, trucks are what percent of total daily traffic?	_____
9. Is the crossing part of an established school bus route?	Yes _____ No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10. If so, how many school buses travel over the crossing each day?	_____
11. Describe any changes to the information in 1 through 7, above, expected within ten years:	<u>None</u>

Section 6 – Description of Proposed Crossing

<p>1. Describe in detail the reasons for constructing a crossing at this location.</p> <p>The proposed crossing will allow extension of the recreational trail along the South Fork Palouse River; provide pedestrian access to a low cost housing development at the south edge of town; and provide future access between Washington State University and the business and medical communities on Bishop Boulevard. The south terminus of the path will connect to the future South Pullman Bypass Highway that includes dedicated bike/pedestrian facilities. Project funding is provided by a local revenue bond issue passed with a 72.34% majority.</p> <p>The proposed crossing site was historically a rail and river crossing point as evidenced by the attached N.P. Ry map. The road approach to the crossing still exists and is barricaded at the tracks. The rail crossing and abandoned Genesee Branch of the N.P. Ry. are regularly used by recreational hikers and cyclists and pedestrian commuters. Our proposal will formalize the crossing and allow installation of appropriate safety measures.</p> <p>2. How far is the nearest alternate access across the tracks from the proposed crossing?</p>
--

There is no pedestrian access at this time to the low cost housing on Johnson Avenue or to the proposed river bridge to Bishop Boulevard. Johnson Avenue is 24 feet wide with little to no shoulders. Widening Johnson Avenue for bike/pedestrian facilities would require extensive excavation of a rock bluff and filling of regulated wetlands. The cost of such construction would be prohibitive even if environmental permits could be obtained. The existing rail crossing of Johnson Road at Old Moscow Highway is skewed at a severe 29 degree angle, a condition that would be worsened by widening the crossing, and is a less desirable location for a pedestrian crossing due to the skew.

Construction of the path on the abandoned rail bed will be far less costly and will avoid the environmental impacts. There is no alternative access to the east river shoreline and the east bridgehead.

3. Describe the alternate access route, including distance and driving time.

Section 7 – Illustration of Crossing

Attach a diagram, drawing, map or other illustration showing the location of the railroad and the proposed location of the crossing. Also include proposed warning signals and signage. Include the parcels of private property located on both sides of the proposed crossing for a distance of 500' from the crossing and the name and mailing address of each property owner.

Property ownership is provided for the east side of the tracks only. The west side of the tracks is separated from private property by the South Fork Palouse River and Bishop Boulevard, a minimum distance of 200'.

List of attachments:

State map.

Project location map.

Project plan.

A portion of NPRR route map.

Five sheets of photographs.

List of property owners.

Section 8 – Waiver of Hearing by Respondent

Waiver of Hearing

The undersigned represents the Respondent in this matter.

Docket Number: Johnson Avenue Path crossing in Pullman, Washington.

We have investigated the conditions at the crossing. We are satisfied the conditions are the same as described by the Petitioner in this docket. We do not oppose the proposed at grade pedestrian crossing and consent to a decision by the commission without a hearing.

Dated at _____, Washington, on the _____ day of _____, 20 ____.

Printed name of Respondent

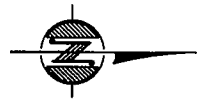
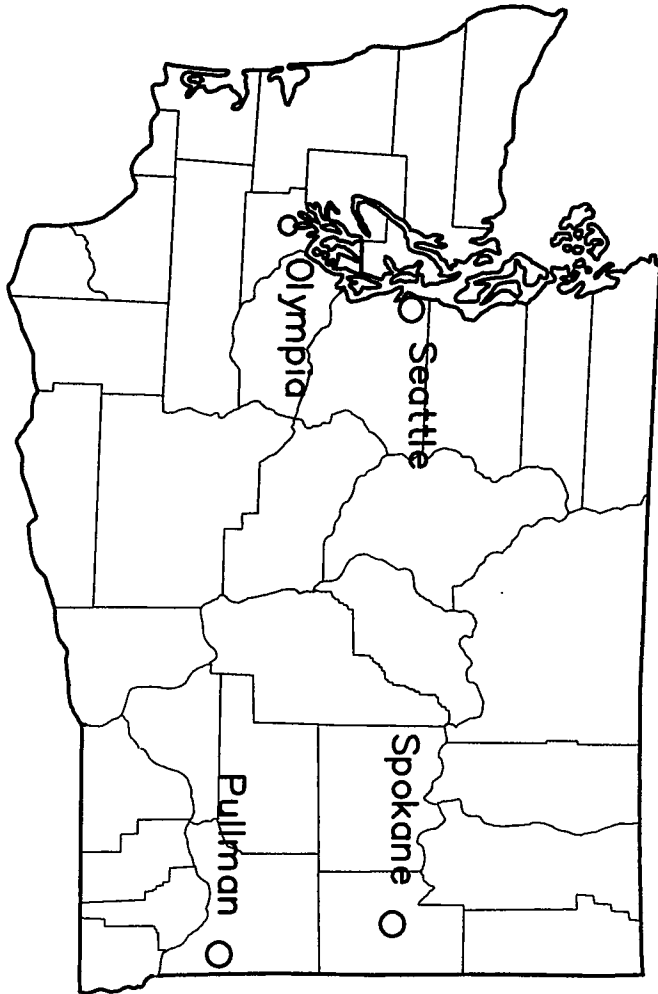
Signature of Respondent's Representative

Title

Phone number and e-mail address

Mailing address

STATE OF WASHINGTON



AutoCAD:

Scale: NTS

Dwn: drr

Date: 06/08

CITY OF PULLMAN,
WASHINGTON

ENGINEERING DIVISION

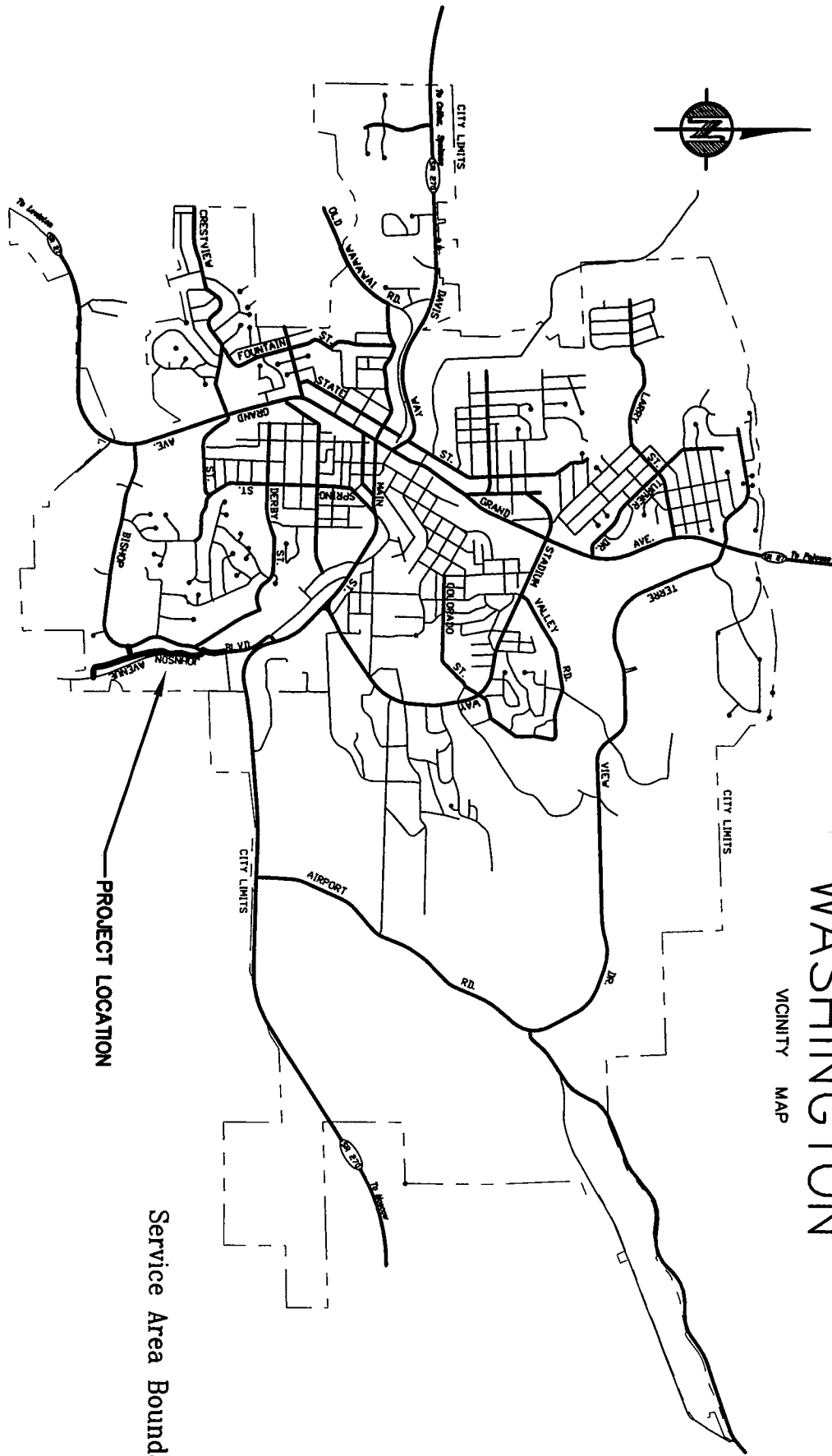


Johnson Avenue Path

SHEET

1

OF



CITY OF PULLMAN WASHINGTON

VICINITY MAP

PROJECT LOCATION

Service Area Boundary

AutoCAD:

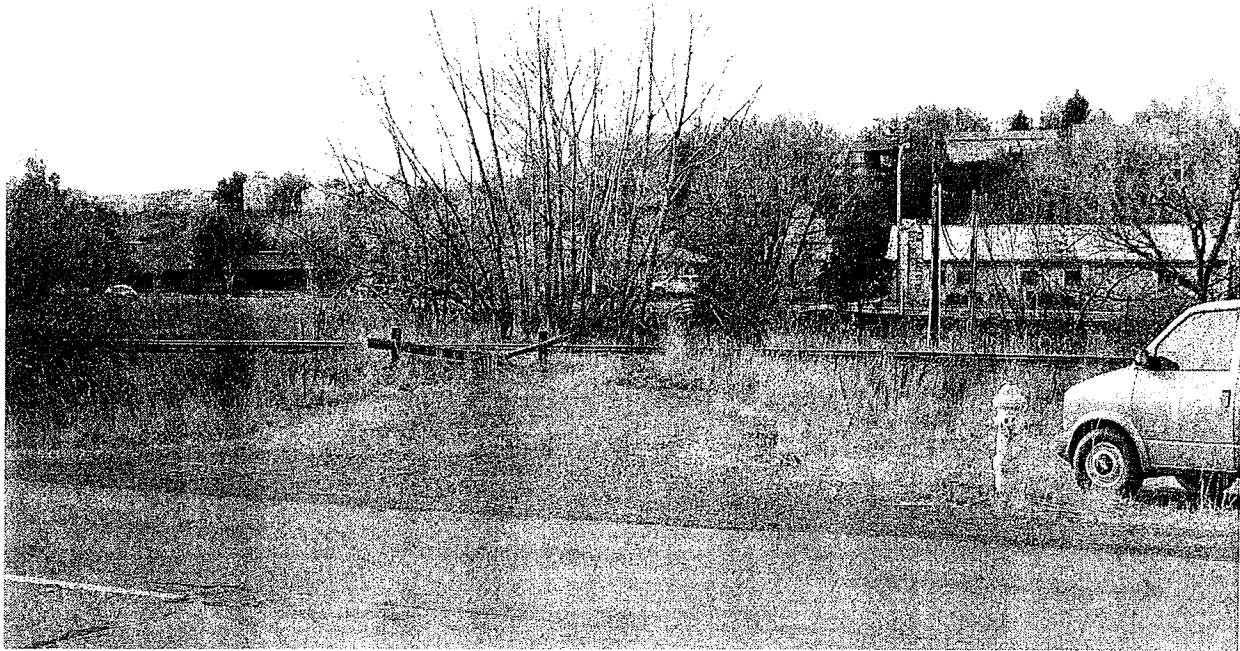
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Johnson Avenue Path

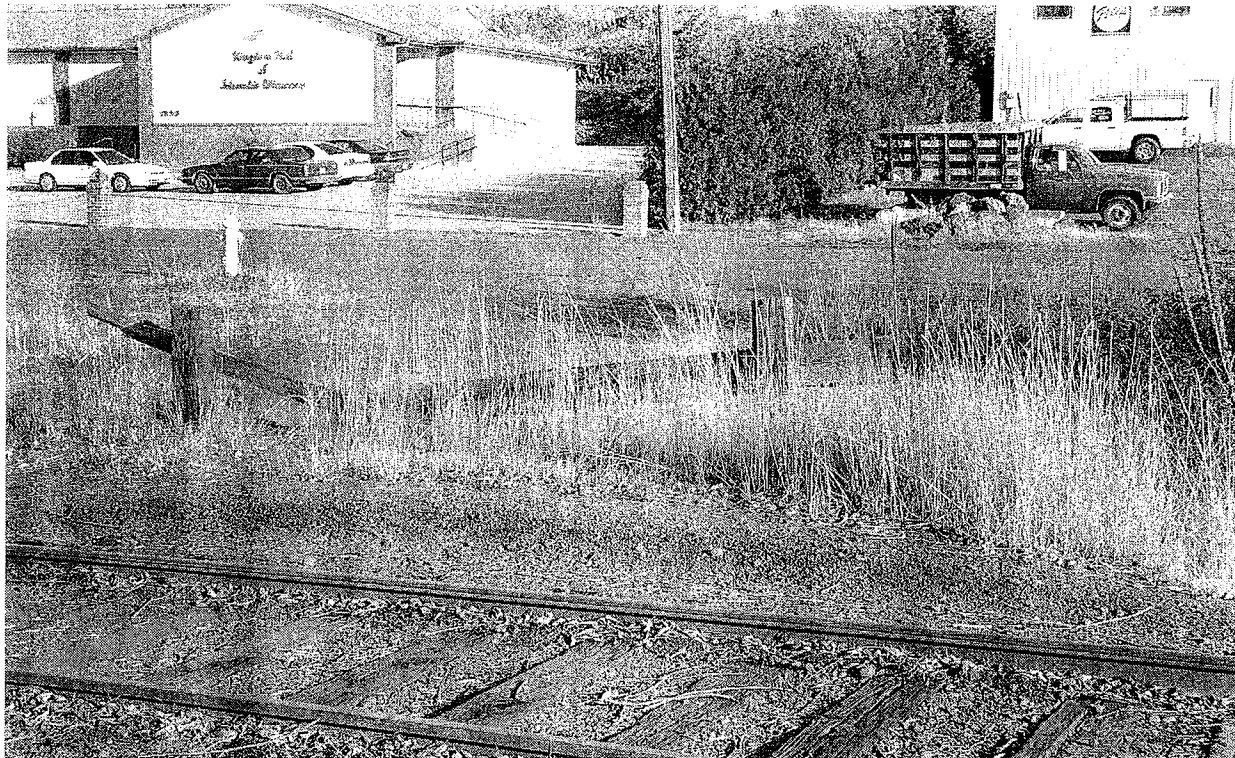
CITY OF PULLMAN,
WASHINGTON

ENGINEERING DIVISION

Scale: NTS
Dwn: drt
CONTRACT NO.
Date: 04/04



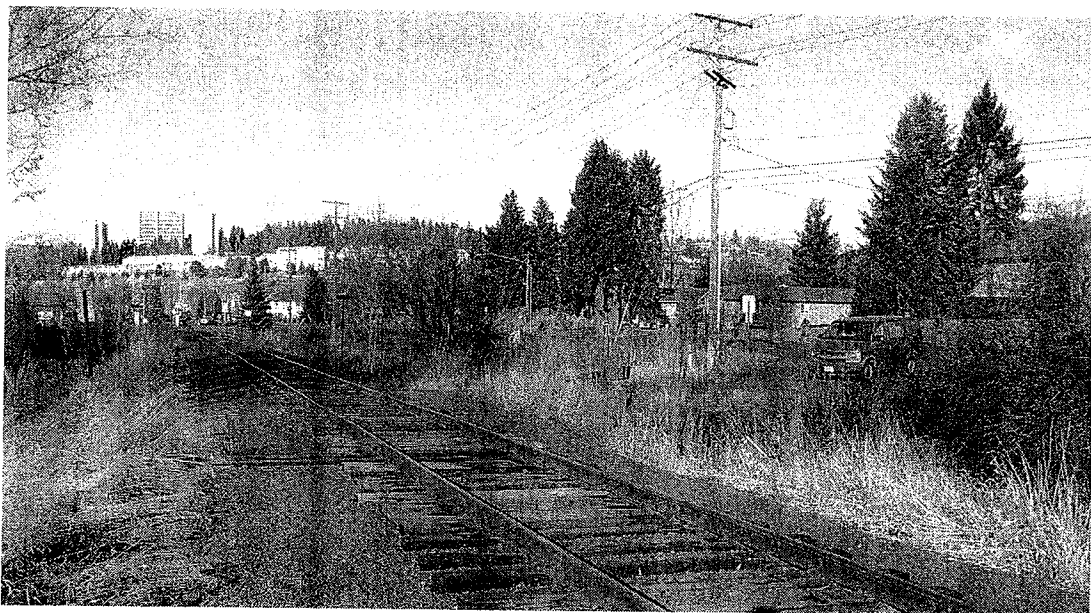
Proposed crossing looking west.



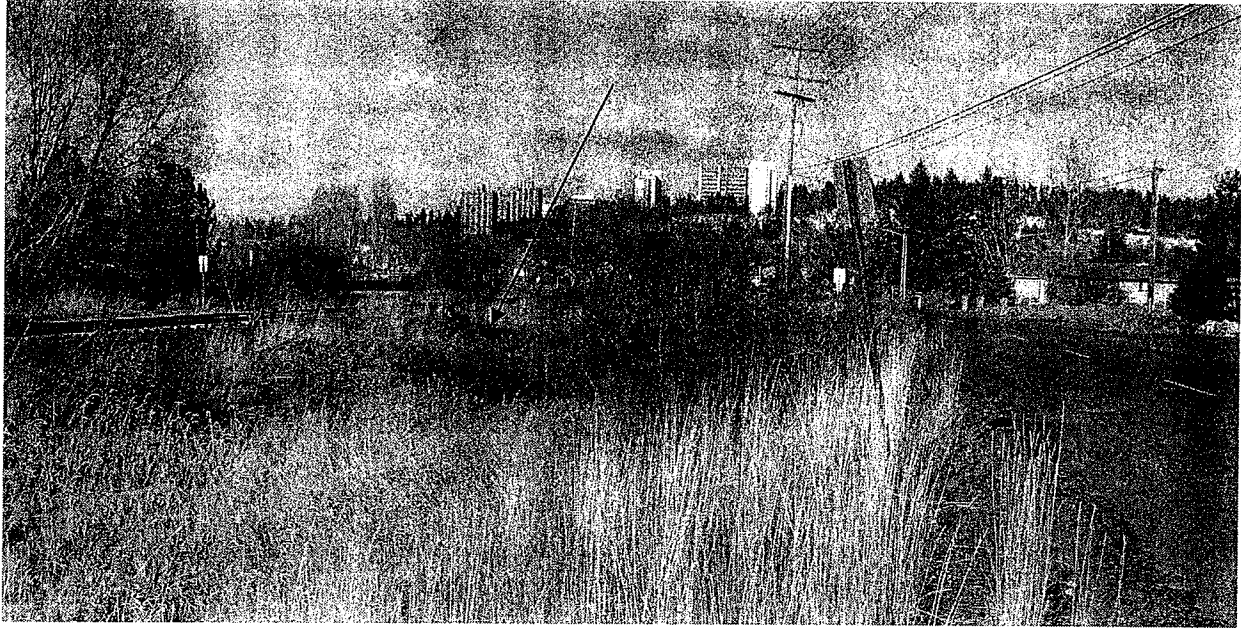
Proposed crossing looking east.



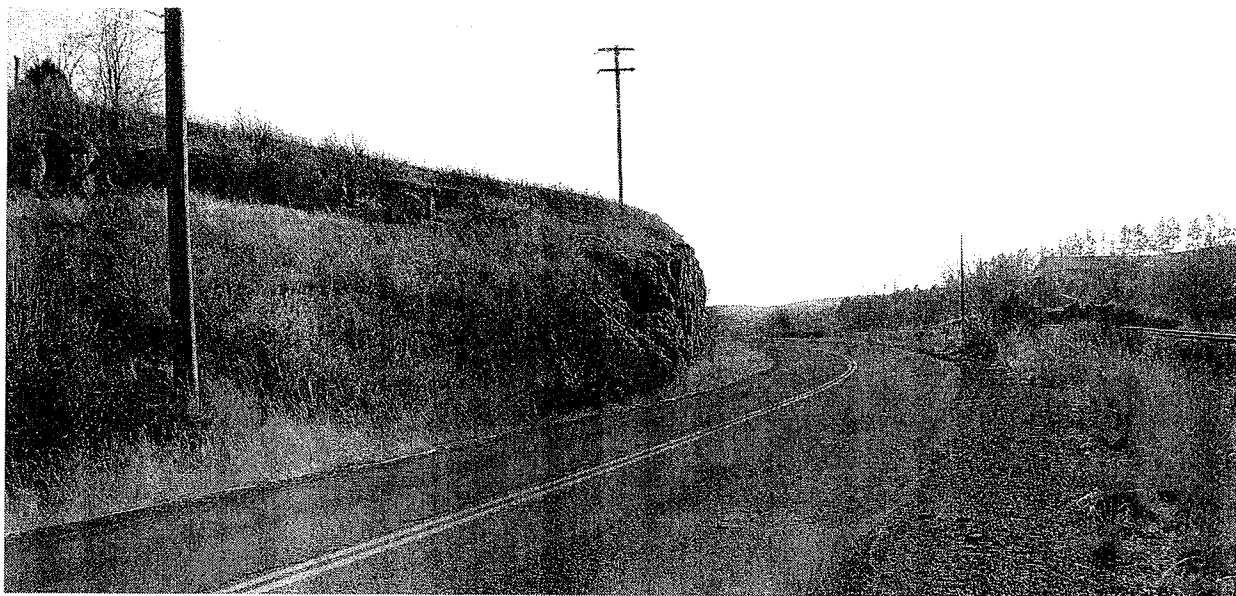
Tracks south from crossing.



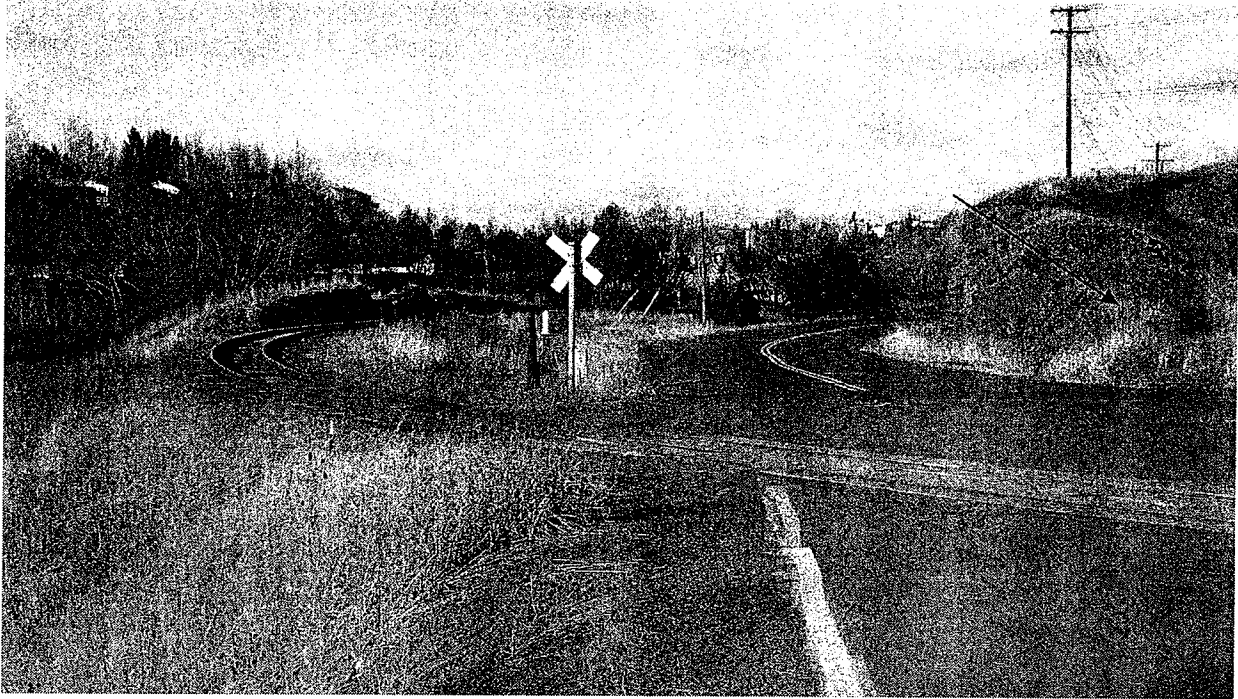
Tracks north of crossing.



Looking north along Johnson Avenue. Arrow indicates petitioned crossing. Low area between tracks and roadway is wetland.



Looking south along Johnson Road from proposed crossing. Rock bluff left of roadway is 390' long and up to 30' high. Removing enough rock to accommodate path would require relocating power line. Area on right between roadway and railroad tracks is wetland.



Existing road crossing at sharp skew angle. Note narrow shoulder. Area at lower left is wetland. Arrow indicates south end of rock bluff.



Narrow shoulders would require extensive fill in wetlands adjacent to roadway. Arrows indicate proposed path location on abandoned rail bed. Buildings at upper left are low cost housing units served by the project.



Existing abandoned rail bed. Current use is heavy enough to keep the trail relatively clear. Improvements will only require tight blading, addition of 3" of crushed surfacing and 2" of asphalt paving. This is a low cost, practical solution to our transportation needs and reutilizes existing finite resources.

The arrow indicates the west shoulder of Johnson Avenue and provides a good visual of the extent of fill required to widen the roadway for an adjacent path.

N. P. Ry.

Palouse & Lewiston Branch
Right of Way Plat

State of Washington
County of Whitman

Township 14 North Range 45 East of Willamette Meridian

Section Line 4062+44.9

85A.1

1° 30' C.
Δ 15° 29'



Orig. P.R.C. 4067+54.8

P.&L. BR. 4067+79.8 + GENESSEE BR. 0+00

Orig. P.R.C. 4068+39.8

3° 00' C. Δ 3° 50'

Orig. P.T. 4069+67.5

HB. 3+12.7

4+18

End. Rip. Rap. R.

4063+91 Rail Rest. L

A.C.
6.16 AC.

Orig. P.R.C. 4067+54.8

5° C. Δ 1° 06'

Orig. P.R.C. 4068+39.8

Present HB. 4068+61.4 + Genesee Br. 0+81.6

4070

4071+40 Sta. Sigt. PULLMAN JCT. R.

P.C. 4+42.5

P.C. 4073+40.0

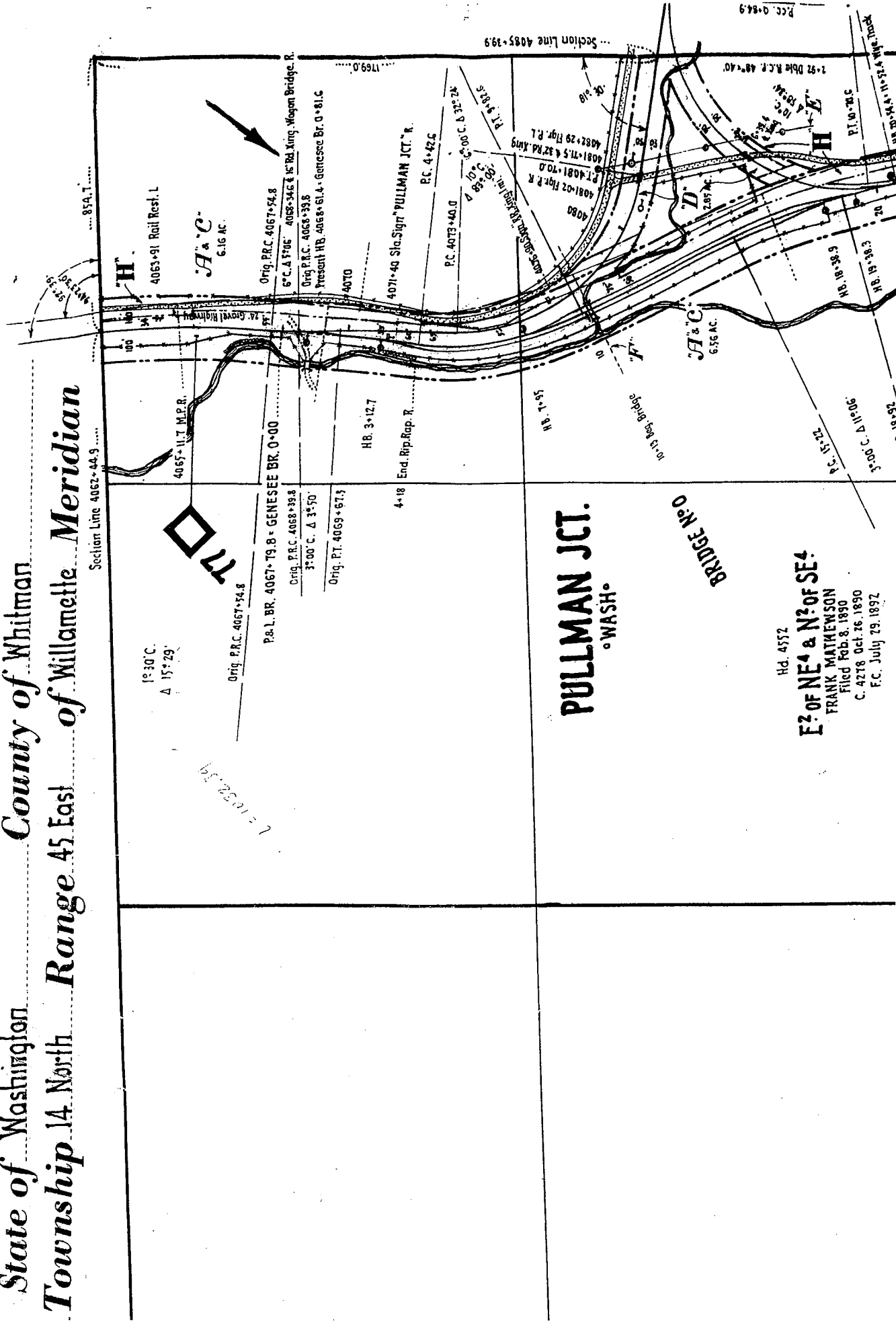
2° 00' C. Δ 23° 24'

P.T. 4+30.5

PULLMAN JCT.
WASH.

BRIDGE No. 0

Hd. 4572
E² OF NE⁴ & N² OF SE⁴
FRANK MATHEWSON
Filed Feb. 8, 1890
C. 4278 Oct. 26, 1890
F.C. July 29, 1892



ASSESSMENT ROLL

PARCEL# & ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	LAND	IMPR	TOTAL
8-1490-00-00-0028 1490 13 818 GORMSEN, MICHAEL W 1330 SE JOHNSON RD (SITE)	GORMSEN, MICHAEL W P O BOX 221 PULLMAN, WA 99163	* 1A * GORMSENS SHORT PLAT NO. 1 * 9.5AC * 12-00/49392 626904	29532 0	137112 0	166644 0
8-1490-00-00-0029 1490 13 869 WHITMAN CO HUMANE SOCIETY	WHITMAN CO HUMANE SOCIETY 126 S GRAND AVE PULLMAN, WA 99163	* 1B 45 * GORMSENS SHORT PLAT NO. 1 * 6.5AC * 12-00/49392 626904	20148 0	0 0	20148 0
8-1490-00-00-0027 1490 13 811 C T L, LLC	C T L, LLC PO BOX 725 PULLMAN, WA 99163	* 2 * GORMSENS SHORT PLAT NO. 1 * 27480-SF * GORMSEN PLUMBING * 1-00/47960 621397	12000 0	163260 0	175260 0
8-1490-00-00-0025 1490 13 811 WESTERN SLOPE LLC	WESTERN SLOPE LLC PO BOX 541 PULLMAN, WA 99163	* 3 * GORMSENS SHORT PLAT NO. 1 * 16592 * 5-97 605259 * 4-98/45260 608810	7872 0	76608 0	84480 0

ASSESSMENT ROLL

PARCEL# & ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	LAND	IMPR	TOTAL
8-1490-00-00-0016 1490 13 811 RIMA, FRANK FAMILY L R	RIMA, FRANK 14646 NE 181ST ST WOODINVILLE, WA 98072	* N1/2 8-14-45 * 5 AC * 1-95/39701 574635	50000 0	0 0	50000 0
8-1490-00-00-0019 1490 13 811 HAYNES, ANTONY/JOANN 1240 SE JOHNSON RD (SITE) PULLMAN, WA 99163	HAYNES, ANTHONY/JOANN 130 SW CEDAR PULLMAN, WA 99163	* N1/2 8-14-45 * 5-03/53343 645551	19872 0	135264 0	155136 0
8-1490-00-00-0022 1490 13 811 PULLMAN CONGREGATION JEHOVAH WITNESSES	PULLMAN CONGREGATION JEHOVAH WITNESSES 645 TAYLOR PULLMAN, WA 99163	* N1/2 8-14-45 * NE1/4 9625 SQ FT & 21X235 * STRIP IN NE COR	624 0	0 0	624 0
8-1490-00-00-0023 1490 13 811 PULLMAN CONGREGATION JEHOVAH WITNESSES	PULLMAN CONGREGATION JEHOVAH WITNESSES 645 TAYLOR PULLMAN, WA 99163	* N1/2 8-14-45 * NE1/4 NE1/4 15985 SQ FT	1860 0	0 0	1860 0
8-1490-00-00-0024 1490 13 811 GORMSEN, MICHAEL/SUSAN	GORMSEN, MICHAEL W PO BOX 221 PULLMAN, WA 99163	* N1/2 8-14-45 * NE1/4 65X245 TT NE COR	3732 0	0 0	3732 0
8-1490-00-00-0043 1490 13 811 PULLMAN JEHOVAHS WIT	PULLMAN JEHOVAHS WIT	* N1/2 8-14-45 * TRACT 85' X 130'	252 0	12564 0	12816 0