



WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

City of Walla Walla

Petitioner,

vs.

Watco Transportation Services, Inc. (Operator) and Union Pacific (Owner)

Respondents.

DOCKET NO. TR-090789

PETITION TO CONSTRUCT OR RECONSTRUCT A HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE CROSSING AT NORTH 13TH AVENUE

USDOT #810025G UTC #36HSA30.6 4.00

2009 MAY 21 AM 8:16

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

Construction x Reconstruction

Section 1 - Petitioner's Information

Form containing petitioner information: City of Walla Walla, PO Box 478, Street Address Walla Walla, WA 99362, City, State and Zip Code Same as above, Mailing Address, if different than the street address Neal Chavre, PE, Contact Person Name 509-524-4511, 509-200-9107 (cell) nchavre@ci.walla-walla.wa.us, Contact Phone Number and E-mail Address

Section 2 – Respondent #1 Information

Watco Transportation Services, Inc.
Respondent 325 Mill Rd.
Street Address Lewiston, ID 83501
City, State and Zip Code
Mailing Address, if different than the street address Scott Adams
Contact Person Name 208-734-4644 ext. 1106 sadams@watcocompanies.com
Contact Phone Number and E-mail Address

Respondent #2 Information

Union Pacific Railroad
Respondent 9451 Atkinson St.
Street Address 9451 Atkinson St. Roseville, CA 95747
City, State and Zip Code
Mailing Address, if different than the street address Terrel Anderson, Manager of Industry and Public Projects
Contact Person Name 916-78-5134 taanders@up.com
Contact Phone Number and E-mail Address

Section 3 – Proposed Crossing Location

1. Existing highway/roadway N. 13th St.
2. Existing railroad DOT # 810025G
3. Location of proposed crossing:
Located in the NW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Sec. 30, Twp. 7N, Range 36E W.M.
4. GPS location, if known Lat. 46.0625, Long. -118.3551
5. Railroad mile post (nearest tenth) 30.6
6. City: Walla Walla County: Walla Walla

Section 4 – Proposed Crossing Information

1. Railroad company Watco Transportation Services, Inc.

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

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

4. Number of tracks at crossing 1

5. Average daily train traffic, freight <1

Authorized freight train speed 10 Operated freight train speed <10

6. Average daily train traffic, passenger NA

Authorized passenger train speed Operated passenger train speed

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

8. If so, state the distance and direction from the proposed crossing.

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

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
- _____
- _____
- _____
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 SR125 (N. 13th Avenue)
2. Roadway classification Minor arterial
3. Road authority City of Walla Walla
4. Average annual daily traffic (AADT) 3600 (2029 projection) Current AADT: 2660
5. Number of lanes 2
6. Roadway speed 30
7. Is the crossing part of an established truck route? Yes ____ No x
8. If so, trucks are what percent of total daily traffic? 5.7
9. Is the crossing part of an established school bus route? Yes ____ No x
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:
The proposed project will create a 3 lane section with pedestrian crossings.
- _____

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 x _____

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

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 x _____

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.

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 x _____

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

An overcrossing at this location would be cost prohibitive. Two separate bridges would be

required because of the proximity to the Rose Street RR crossing. This is not justified,

given the low volume of trains using these tracks.

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.

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.

Section 8 – Sight Distance

1. Complete the following table, describing the sight distance for motorists when approaching the tracks from either direction.

a. Approaching the crossing from South, 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	NA
Right	200	240
Right	100	240
Right	50	240
Right	25	240
Left	300	NA
Left	200	180
Left	100	75
Left	50	90
Left	25	>350

b. Approaching the crossing from North, 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	>500
Right	200	>500
Right	100	>350
Right	50	>350
Right	25	>350
Left	300	>500
Left	200	>500
Left	100	>400
Left	50	>350
Left	25	>325

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.

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.

Continue with passive controls for both of the two existing crossings at this location. This

crossing is VERY lightly used, with less than 1 train per day on average. Train speeds

are less than 10 mph.

Passive controls include: crossbucks, yield signs, emergency notification signage, retroreflective tape on the posts, advance warning signs and pavement markings.

2. Provide an estimate for maintaining the signals for 12 months. _____ NA _____

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

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.

Reconstructing the existing crossing as proposed would provide a smoother roadway surface to _____
cross the tracks, would provide for safe bicycle and pedestrian access across the tracks, and
significantly decrease long term maintenance costs for both the agency and the railroad.

The crossing surface will be upgraded to concrete crossing panels. Flange fillers will be installed for the panels corresponding to the bicycle lane and sidewalk. New sidewalks and a bicycle lane will connect with the concrete crossing panels to provide a smooth traveling service for pedestrians and bicyclists.

A six-inch raised median curb will be installed in the turn lane south of the crossing between the second nearby crossing, USDOT #810026N.

Section 12 – Waiver of Hearing by Respondent #1
USDOT #810025

WATCO

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 that a crossing be installed or reconstructed 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

**Section 12 – Waiver of Hearing by Respondent #2
USDOT #810025**

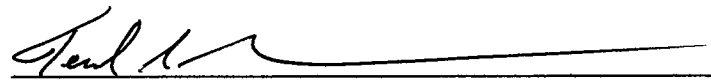
**Union Pacific Railroad
Waiver of Hearing**

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 that a crossing be installed or reconstructed and consent to a decision by the commission without a hearing.

Dated at _____, Washington, on the 18th day of
May, 2009.

Terrel A Anderson
Printed name of Respondent


Signature of Respondent's Representative

Manager Industry & Public Projects
Title

916 789 5134
Phone number and e-mail address

Terrel A. Anderson
Mgr. - Industry & Public Projects
Union Pacific Railroad Company
9451 Atkinson Street
Roseville, CA 95747

Mailing address