WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

City of Walla Walla Petitioner, vs. Port of Walla Walla And Watco Transportation Respondent	)	DOCKET NO. TR- 090833 PETITION TO CONSTRUCT OR RECONSTRUCT A HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE CROSSING AT 13th AVENUE – SR-125 USDOT #808522J UTC #6FSG46.90

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

☐ **Construction** x **Reconstruction**

2009 MAY 26 PM 2:56

Section 1 – Petitioner's Information

City of Walla Walla
Petitioner

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 2a – Respondent's Information

Port of Walla Walla

Respondent
310 "A" Street

Street Address
Walla Walla, WA 99362

City, State and Zip Code

Mailing Address, if different than the street address
Jim Kuntz

Contact Person Name
jk@portwallawalla.com 509-525-3100

Contact Phone Number and E-mail Address

Section 2b – Respondent's Information

Watco Transportation Services

Respondent
325 Mill Rd.

Street Address
Lewiston, ID 83501

City, State and Zip Code

PO Box 1166
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

Section 3 – Proposed Crossing Location

1. Existing highway/roadway SR125 (N. 13th St.)

2. Existing railroad 808522J

3. Location of proposed crossing:
   Located in the SW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Sec. 19, Twp. 7N, Range 36E W.M.

4. GPS location, if known Lat. 46.0764, Long. -118.3608

5. Railroad mile post (nearest tenth) _____

6. City: Walla Walla County: Walla Walla

Section 4 – Proposed Crossing Information

1. Railroad company: No operations at this time – Port of Walla Walla owns and will maintain the crossing.

2. Type of railroad at crossing ☐ Common Carrier ☐ Logging x Industrial

☐ Passenger ☐ Excursion

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

4. Number of tracks at crossing 2

5. Average daily train traffic, freight 0

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 WSDOT curb to curb, otherwise the City of Walla Walla

4. Average annual daily traffic (AADT) 3600 (2029 projection) Actual ADT: 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 __x__ 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.

   The current crossing is in an urban area so visibility is not totally unobstructed. But, At the slow speeds run by any trains at this location, there should be adequate stopping sight distance for motorists using the roadway.

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.
   A bridge at this location would make it impossible for <u>either</u> the rails to service the intended facilities, or for vehicle traffic to enter the adjacent commercial properties.

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 x

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 x

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 North, 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	90
Right	200	135
Right	100	260
Right	50	425
Right	25	>450
Left	300	65
Left	200	65
Left	100	75
Left	50	90
Left	25	>350

b. Approaching the crossing from South, 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	60
Right	200	90
Right	100	90
Right	50	145
Right	25	200
Left	300	400
Left	200	600
Left	100	>600
Left	50	>600
Left	25	>600

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.

1) Install six-inch raised median curb in the turn lane on both sides of both crossings (other nearby crossing 808523R) as depicted in the preliminary design drawings.

2) Replace the existing crossbuck signs and posts with new MUTCD-compliant signs and posts.

3) Install standard "Yield" signs that comply with MUTCD standards on the same post as the crossbuck signs at both crossings.

4) Install emergency notification signs (either I-13 0r I-13a) at both crossings.

5) Replace the crossing surfaces with concrete panels and install flange fillers on panels corresponding to the bicycle lane and sidewalk.

6) Install advance warning signs that are in compliance with the MUTCD.

2. Provide an estimate for maintaining the signals for 12 months. n/a

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

Yes x 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 smother 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.

Section 12 – Waiver of Hearing by Respondent
USDOT #808522J

Port of Walla Walla
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 13 – Waiver of Hearing by Respondent #2
USDOT #808522J

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

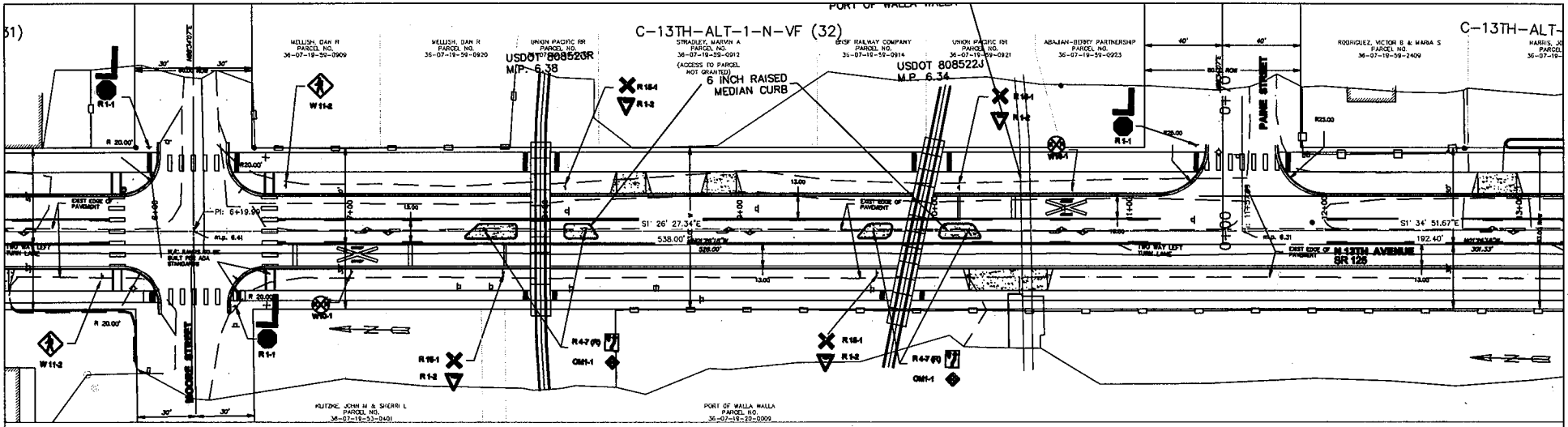
_____

Phone number and e-mail address

_____

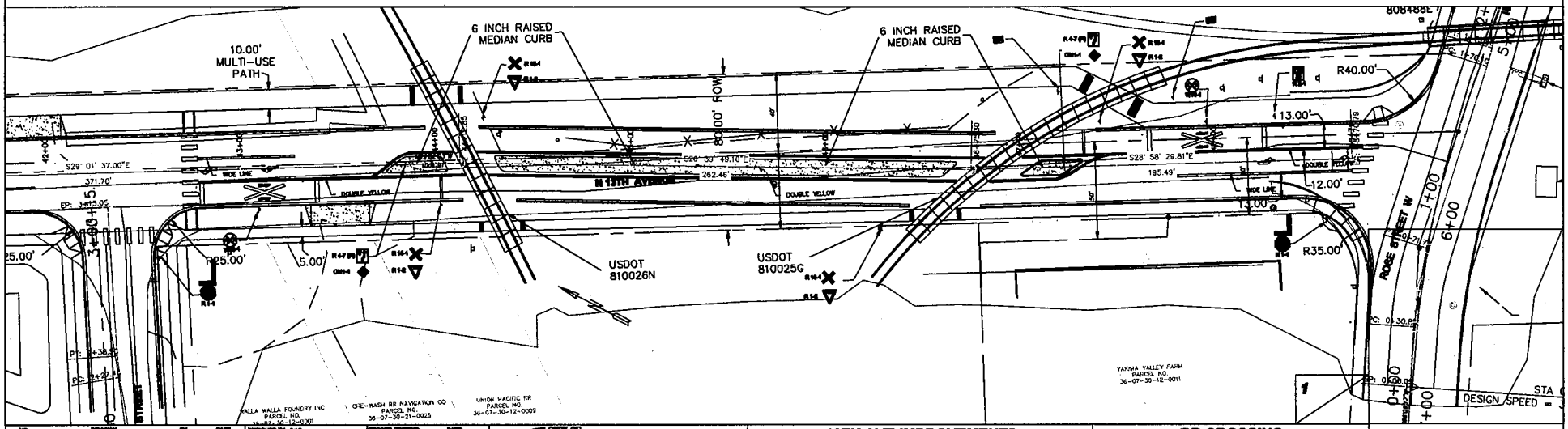
_____

Mailing address



TOP PLAN VIEW SHOWS THE TWO CROSSINGS ON THE NORTH END OF THE PROJECT BETWEEN MOORE STREET AND PAINE STREET.

BOTTOM PLAN VIEW SHOWS THE TWO CROSSINGS ON THE SOUTH END OF THE PROJECT BETWEEN ROSE STREET AND ABADIE STREET.



NO	REVISION	BY	DATE

DESIGNED BY: DWE
DRAWN BY: DWE
CHECKED BY: N/A
APPROVED BY: N/A
RECORD DRAWING DATE
SCALE: HORIZ: 50
VERT: N/A
FILE NO.

CITY OF WALLA WALLA
Public Works/Engineering
P.O. Box 478
Walla Walla, WA 99362

13TH AVE IMPROVEMENTS

RR CROSSING PLANS

Section 12 – Waiver of Hearing by Respondent
USDOT #808522J

Port of Walla Walla
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 Walla Walla, Washington, on the 28th day of May, 2009.

James M. Kuntz
Printed name of Respondent

James M. Kuntz
Signature of Respondent's Representative

Executive Director
Title

509-525-3100 jk@portwallawalla.com
Phone number and e-mail address

310 A. Street

Walla Walla, Washington 99362
Mailing address

Section 13 – Waiver of Hearing by Respondent #2
USDOT #808522J

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 ____.

2009 MAY 29 AM 9:00

Scott Adams
Printed name of Respondent

Scott Adams
Signature of Respondent's Representative

Chief Engineer of Track Watco Companies
Title

208-734-4644 SAdams@watcocompanies.com
Phone number and e-mail address

420 Hansen St. S.

Twin Falls, Idaho 83301
Mailing address