

Administration	(509) 527-4463
Engineering	(509) 527-4537
Equipment Pool	(509) 527-4506
Landfill	(509) 527-4591
Sanitation	(509) 527-4479
Streets	(509) 527-4363
Water	(509) 527-4380

January 27, 2010

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

RE: Proposed Reconstruct of Rail Crossing USDOT # 097108D
UTC Crossing # 36J62.00

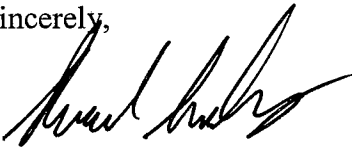
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2010 JAN 29 AM 8:03
STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITY AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Ms. Hunter,

Enclosed please find a petition to reconstruct a highway-rail grade crossing at the intersection of North 13th Avenue/SR 125 and May Avenue. Also enclosed is a printed email from Todd Kuhn, BNSF Manager of Public Projects. This email gives the City direction to work with Watco as the operator and permitting agency for this particular crossing.

Thank you for processing this petition and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. You can reach me at 509-527-4537 or by email at mlaughery@ci.walla-walla.wa.us.

Sincerely,



Mike Laughery, P.E.
Engineering Associate

Enclosures

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

)	DOCKET NO. <u>TR-100232</u>
)	
City of Walla Walla)	
_____)	
Petitioner,)	PETITION TO RECONSTRUCT A
)	HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE
vs.)	CROSSING AT THE INTERSECTION
)	OF NORTH 13 TH AVENUE/SR 125
)	AND MAY AVENUE
Watco Transportation)	
_____)	
Respondent.)	
)	USDOT # 097108D
.....)	UTC Crossing # 36J62.00
)	

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

Construction **Reconstruction**

RECEIVED
 PROJECT MANAGEMENT
 2010 JAN 29 AM 8:04
 STATE OF WASH
 UTIL. AND TRANSP
 COMMISSION

Section 1 – Petitioner’s Information

Petitioner
City of Walla Walla
Street Address
PO Box 478
City, State and Zip Code
Walla Walla, WA 99362
Mailing Address, if different than the street address
Same As Above
Contact Person Name
Mike Laughery, PE
Contact Phone Number and E-mail Address
509-524-4515, mlaughery@ci.walla-walla.wa.us

Section 2
Respondent Information

Respondent	
WATCO Transportation	
Street Address	
325 Mill Rd.	
City, State and Zip Code	
Lewiston, ID 83501	
Mailing Address, if different than the street address	
Same as above	
Contact Person Name	
Jim Soulia	
Contact Phone Number and E-mail Address	
(208) 743-2211	jsoulia@watcocompanies.com

Section 3 – Proposed Crossing Location

1. Existing highway/roadway <u>North 13th Avenue/SR 125</u>
2. Existing railroad <u>USDOT # 097108D - UTC Crossing #36I62.00</u>
3. Location of proposed crossing: Located in the <u>N 1/2</u> of the <u>NE & NW 1/4</u> of Sec. <u>19</u> , Twp. <u>7N</u> , Range <u>36E</u> W.M.
4. GPS location, if known <u>Lat. 46° 4' 32.347" N, Long. 118° 21' 23.144" W</u>
5. Railroad mile post (nearest tenth) _____
6. City: <u>Walla Walla</u> County: <u>Walla Walla</u>

Section 4 – Proposed Crossing Information

1. Railroad company Watco Transportation

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 3

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 NA Operated passenger train speed NA

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.
 NA

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

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.

NA

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.

Buildings

NA

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 over-crossing or under-crossing at this location is not feasible due to the railroad
crossing and street intersection alignment. In addition this crossing receives extremely
low volumes of train traffic at low speeds. This type of crossing would also restrict
access to multiple 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

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.

NA

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

Yes NA No NA

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.

NA

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 West, 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	>300
Right	200	>300
Right	100	>300
Right	50	>300
Right	25	>300
Left	300	280
Left	200	>300
Left	100	>300
Left	50	>300
Left	25	>300

b. Approaching the crossing from East, 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	65
Right	200	100
Right	100	160
Right	50	265
Right	25	>300
Left	300	160
Left	200	>300
Left	100	>300
Left	50	>300
Left	25	>300

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. NA

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.

NA

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.

The City proposes to sign and strip the crossing per the Manual on Uniform Traffic

Control Devices. This will match the newly constructed crossings along this stretch of

13th Avenue/SR 125,

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 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.

The City of Walla Walla is planning to reconstruct an existing railroad crossing

(USDOT # 097108D, UTC Crossing # 36J62.00), as part of the 13th Avenue – Rees to Carrie

Water & Sewer Improvement Project, to include upgrading the crossing surface to

concrete crossing panels and adding sidewalks. The existing underground utilities will also be

replaced. Reconstructing the existing crossing as proposed would provide a safer route for

pedestrians and bicyclists as well as a smoother crossing surface for vehicles to travel across the

tracks. The proposed reconstruction improvements would significantly decrease long term

maintenance costs for both the agency and the operating railroad.

Docket No. _____
Section 12 – Waiver of Hearing
USDOT # 097108D

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

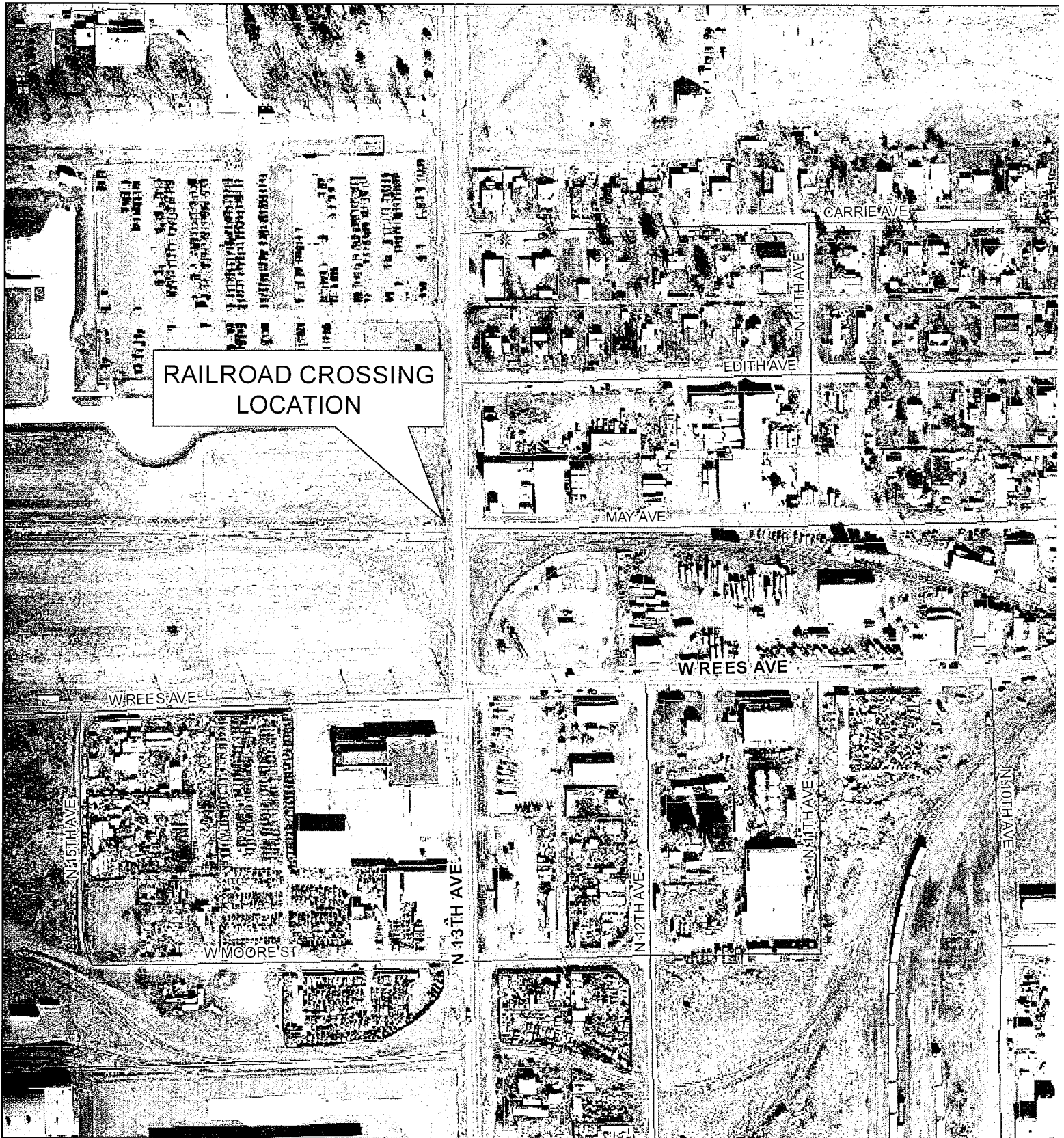
Title

Phone number and e-mail address

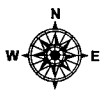
Mailing address

VICINITY MAP

13th Ave./SR 125 & May Ave. Railroad Crossing
USDOT # 097108D - UTC Crossing # 36J62.00

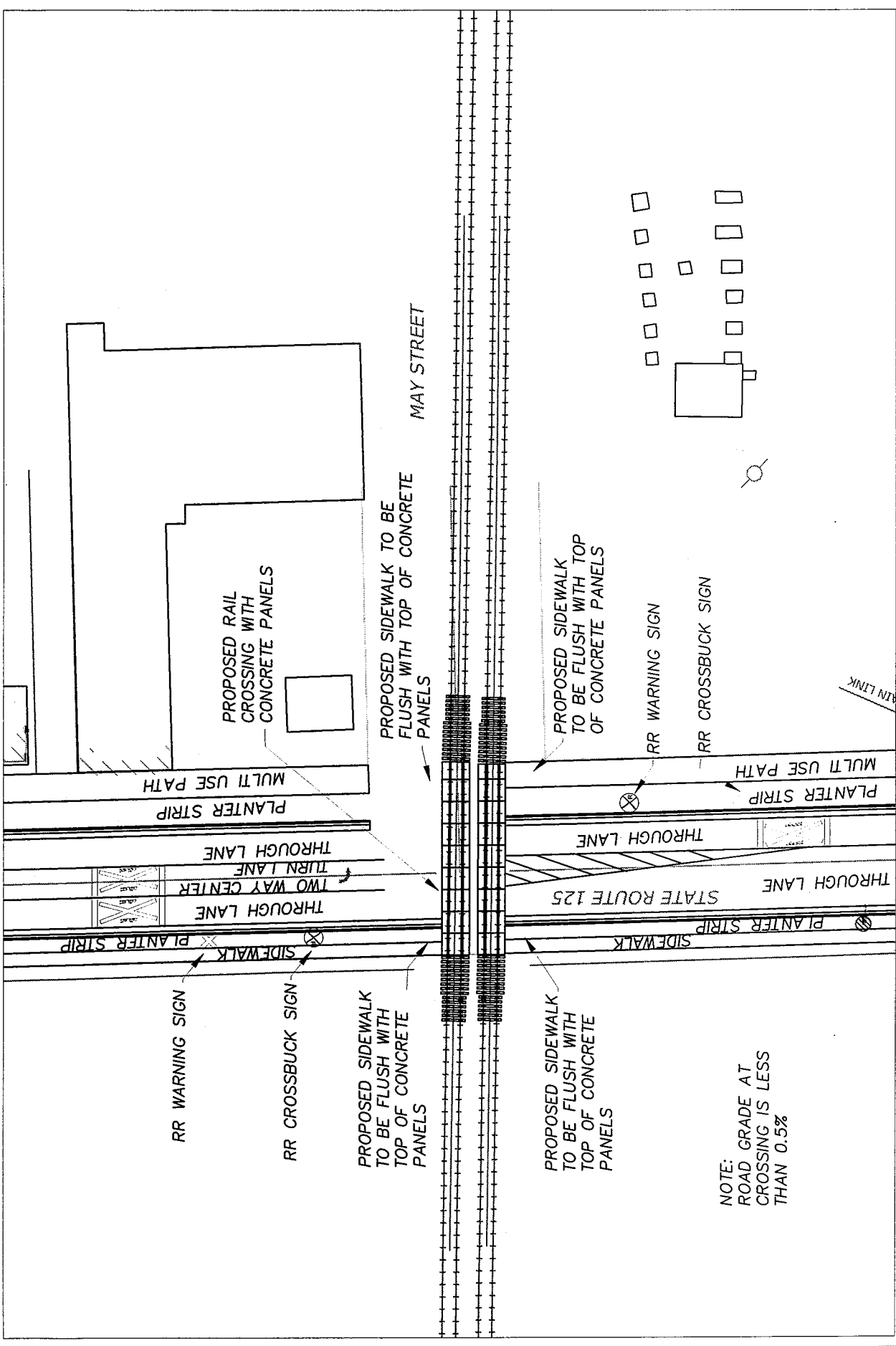


RAILROAD CROSSING
LOCATION



0 115 230 460 Feet





CITY OF WALLA WALLA WALLA WALLA

Public Works Engineering
P.O. Box 478
Walla Walla, WA 99362

13TH AVE. NO. 1

PROPOSED RAILROAD CROSSING
13TH AVE./SR 125 & MAY AVE.
WSDOT #09108D UTC CROSSING # 36J62.00

Michael Laughery

From: Kuhn, Todd M [Todd.Kuhn@BNSF.com]
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2010 7:09 PM
To: Michael Laughery
Subject: RE: City of Walla Walla 13th Avenue RR crossing

BNSF does not operate this railroad. You need to work with the Palouse River and Coulee City Railroad, which is owned by Watco. Their website has links for contacts and utility permitting.

http://www.watcocompanies.com/Railroads/blmr_pcc/blmr_pcc.htm

Todd M. Kuhn, PE
BNSF Railway Company | *Manager Public Projects*
Office 206-625-6146 | E-mail todd.kuhn@bnsf.com

From: Michael Laughery [mailto:mlaughter@ci.walla-walla.wa.us]
Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2010 2:04 PM
To: Kuhn, Todd M
Subject: City of Walla Walla 13th Avenue RR crossing

Todd,

I have received your contact information from Kathy Hunter – WUTC. I am working on a new road and utility project on north end of 13th Avenue. There is a BNSF railroad crossing inside the project limits, USDOT crossing No. 097108D. This crossing is located at the street intersection of May Avenue and 13th Avenue and is a double track crossing. For this project we are looking to replace the existing water and sewer utilities that are under the tracks as well as rebuild the railroad crossing.

We are currently in the design survey phase of the project and I would like to get started on the permitting process for this work. What will be the requirements and how do I get started on the permit for the work on and under the crossing?

Thank you in advance for your help on this.

Mike Laughery, P.E.
Engineering Associate
City of Walla Walla
509.527.4537
Extension: 4515