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March 20, 2015

Kathy Hunter Deputy Assistant Director, Trans. Safety Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission 1300 S Evergreen Park Dr. SW Olympia, WA 98504-7250 STATE OF WASH UTIL, AND TRANSP. COMMISSION 2015 MAR 30 AM 8: 56

Re: Petition for Reconstruction and Installation of an Inter-Tie at the Barksdale Avenue Crossing (085836E) in DuPont within Pierce County, WA

Dear Ms. Hunter,

This letter is in support of the aforementioned WUTC petition on behalf of WSDOT for the highway-rail grade crossing upgrades at Barksdale Avenue (USDOT Crossing #085836E) within Pierce County, WA. The following supplemental information is a summary of the proposed improvements to the highway-rail grade crossing at Barksdale Avenue.

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is implementing a program of infrastructure improvement projects along the Pacific Northwest Rail Corridor (PNWRC) also known as the PNWRC Improvement Program. This program is comprised of approximately 17 component projects that when combined will: provide two additional roundtrips for the Cascades intercity passenger rail service between Seattle, WA and Portland, OR; improve on time reliability to 88%; and provide a 10 minute reduction in travel time between the aforementioned termini. One of the 17 PNWRC Improvement projects is the Point Defiance Bypass project. In addition to the Cascades service, the Amtrak long distance service, the Coast Starlight, will also utilize the Point Defiance Bypass alignment.

The Point Defiance Bypass project includes five highway-rail grade crossings that will be reconstructed to support the above mentioned passenger rail services between Lakewood, WA and DuPont, WA. Those highway-rail grade crossings are Clover Creek Drive SW, North Thorne Lane SW, Berkeley Street SW, 41st Division Drive, and Barksdale Avenue. The Berkeley Street SW highway-rail grade crossing improvements are being constructed by the city of Lakewood as part of their Madigan Access Improvement project. The city of Lakewood project will incorporate the necessary highway-rail grade crossing improvements to support the intercity and long distance passenger rail services.

The improvements at the Barksdale Avenue highway-rail grade crossing include new flashing light masts and gates, a constant warning-time grade crossing warning device Ms. Hunter March 20, 2015 Page 2

with an automatic horn system consisting of stationary horns and a new concrete crossing panel with rubber flange way fillers. The existing channelization will remain largely unchanged with a new raised median being constructed on the south side of the crossing. The sidewalk on the east side of the crossing will be reconfigured because the existing sidewalk encroaches on the railroad clearance envelope. Traffic controllers at the Interstate 5 interchange northbound and southbound ramp termini along with the Barksdale Avenue/DuPont-Steilacoom Road intersection highway will be replaced with a single controller to eliminate operations conflict when switching to preemption.

In conjunction with the attached petition, WSDOT is working closely with the city of DuPont, Sound Transit, BNSF, and Tacoma Rail on the proposed improvements for Barksdale Avenue. In addition, please find the signed Waiver of Hearing by Respondent found in Section 13 of this petition from each of the applicable project stakeholders as consent without a hearing.

If you should have any questions, please contact myself at (360)905-1578.

Sincerely.

Casey Liles, MSCE, PE

WSDOT Rail Division

Point Defiance Bypass Project Lead

CL:ts

Enclosure: WUTC Petition for Reconstruction and Installation of an Inter-Tie at the Barksdale Avenue Highway-Rail Grade Crossing, No. 085836E.

cc: David Smelser
Michael Williams
Chris Dunster
Devin Reck
Jason Dao
Thomas Slimak
Document Controls



WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

) DOCKET NO. TR-				
WSDOT Rail) PETITION TO CONSTRUCT OR	A WW			
Petitioner,	 RECONSTRUCT A HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE CROSSING AND INSTALL AN INTER-TIE BETWEEN A HIGHWAY SIGNAL AND A RAILROAD CROSSING SIGNAL SYSTEM 				
vs. Central Puget Sound Regional Transportation Authority; City of Lakewood;					
BNSF Railway Company; Tacoma Rail Respondent)) USDOT CROSSING # 08583	6E			
Respondent					

Prior to submitting a Petition to **Construct** a highway-rail grade crossing and install an inter-tie between a Highway Signal and a Railroad Crossing Signal System to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC), State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA) requirements must be met. Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 197-11-865 (2) requires:

All actions of the utilities and transportation commission under statutes administered as of December 12, 1975, are exempted, except the following:

(2) Authorization of the openings or closing of any highway/railroad grade crossing, or the direction of physical connection of the line of one railroad with that of another;

Please attach sufficient documentation to demonstrate that the SEPA requirement has been fulfilled. For additional information on SEPA requirements contact the Department of Ecology.

The Petitioner asks the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission to approve installation of an inter-tie between a highway signal and a railroad crossing signal system.

☐ Construction

☑ Reconstruction

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Project Summary:

The Barksdale Avenue highway-rail grade crossing is part of the Point Defiance Bypass Project that has been proposed to respond to deficiencies in the existing rail operations around Point Defiance between Tacoma and Nisqually in Washington State. As part of the Pacific Northwest Rail Corridor (PNWRC) Improvement Program, when combined with the other component projects, this Project would allow for two additional round trips of the Amtrak Cascades service between Seattle, Washington, and Portland, Oregon with improved reliability and reduced travel time. This Project would also support Amtrak's longer-distance Pacific Northwest passenger rail service, the Coast Starlight.

- Flashing light masts and gates are set between 5 feet and 7 feet from face of curb.
- The crossing will have a constant warning-time grade crossing warning device with an automatic horn system consisting of stationary horns.
- Crossing surface will be concrete panels with attached rubber flange way fillers.
- The existing channelization configuration will remain largely unchanged. A new median will be constructed on the south side of the tracks.
- Only minor changes to the roadway profile will occur where the crossing panels are replaced with new panels; the new panels, 10' wide overall, will be approximately 9" wider on each side of the tracks than the existing panels.
- Existing crossing gates will be replaced with new gates. Some of the existing gates are too
 close to the curb line and will be relocated away from the curb. This will require
 excavation of the foundations and installation of new foundations.
- Sidewalks on the east side of street encroach into the railroad clearance envelope and will
 be revised to comply with WUTC/Sound Transit requirements. Existing curb and gutter on
 the west side of the street also encroach into the clearance envelope and will be modified.
- Advance pre-emption sequence will be extended to the Barksdale-Steilacoom Road intersection.
- All three traffic signals are run off one traffic signal controller to eliminate operational conflict when going to preemption.

Section 1 – Petitioner's Information

WSDOT Rail Division
Petitioner
P.O. Box 47407
Street Address
Olympia, WA 98504
City, State and Zip Code
Mailing Address, if different than the street address
David Smelser
Contact Person Name
360-705-6916; David.Smelser@wsdot.wa.gov
Contact Phone Number and E-mail Address

Section 2 – Respondent's Information

Central Puget Sound Regional Transportation Aut Respondent	morely (Dound Humble)
401 South Jackson Street	
Street Address	
Seattle, WA 98104-2826	
City, State and Zip Code	
Mailing Address, if different than the street address	
Jodi Mitchell	
Contact Person Name	
207 200 5000 T. P. M. J. H. C M.	
206-398-5080; Jodi.Mitchell@SoundTransit.org	

Section 2 – Respondent's Information (cont'd)

City of DuPont, Washington	
Respondent	
1700 Civic Drive	
Street Address	
DuPont, WA 98327	
City, State and Zip Code	
Mailing Address, if different than the street address	
Peter Zahn	
Contact Person Name	
253-912-5381; publicworks@dupontwa.gov	
Contact Phone Number and E-mail Address	
BNSF Railway Company	
Respondent	
2454 Occidental Avenue S; Suite 2D	
Street Address	
Seattle, WA 98134	
City, State and Zip Code	
Mailing Address, if different than the street address	
Richard Wagner	
Contact Person Name	
206-625-6152; Richard.Wagner@BNSF.com	
Contact Phone Number and E-mail Address	

Section 2 – Respondent's Information (cont'd)

Tacoma Rail
Respondent
2601 SR 509 North Frontage Road
Street Address
Tacoma, WA 98421
City, State and Zip Code
Mailing Address, if different than the street address
Kyle Kellem
Contact Person Name
253-377-3554; kkellem@cityoftacoma.org
Contact Phone Number and E-mail Address
Section 3 – Crossing Location
1. Existing highway/roadway Barksdale Avenue
2. Existing railroad
3. USDOT Crossing No. <u>085836E</u>
4. Located in the1/4 of the1/4 of Sec. <u>36</u> , Twp. <u>19N</u> , Range <u>02E</u> W.M.
5. GPS location, if known 47.093454, -122.624138
7. Railroad mile post (nearest tenth) 7.6
8. City DuPont County Pierce

Section 4 – Proposed or Existing Crossing Information

1. Railroad company Sound Transit Note: Sound Transit owns crossing property while Tacoma Rail and BNSF Railway Company share a franchising agreement of the rail.					
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 crossing1					
5. Average daily train traffic, freight2					
Authorized freight train speed 40 mph Operated freight train speed 40 mph					
6. Average daily train traffic, passenger16_					
Authorized passenger train speed 79 mph Operated passenger train speed 79 mph					
7. Will the proposed crossing eliminate the need for one or more existing crossings? Yes No					
8. If so, state the distance and direction from the proposed crossing.					
9. Does the petitioner propose to close any existing crossings? Yes No ✓					
Section 5 – Temporary Crossing					
1. Is the crossing proposed to be temporary? Yes No					
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 N/A					
Approximate date of removal					

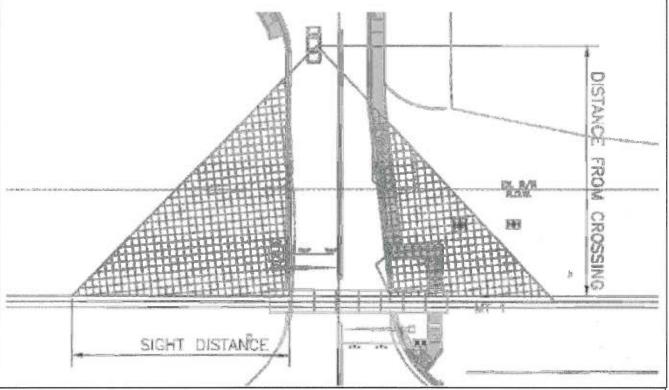
Section 6 – Current Highway Traffic Information

1. Name of roadway/highway Barksdale Ave						
2. Roadway classification Minor Arterial						
3. Road authority City of Dupont / WSDOT						
4. Average annual daily traffic (AADT) 13000 (2013)						
5. Number of lanes <u>5 (2 northbound, 3 southbound</u>						
6. Roadway speed 25 mph						
7. Is the crossing part of an established truck route? Yes No✓						
8. If so, trucks are what percent of total daily traffic?						
9. Is the crossing part of an established school bus route? Yes _✓ No						
10. If so, how many school buses travel over the crossing each day? 12						
11.Describe any changes to the information in 1 through 7, above, expected within ten years:						
Section 7 – Alternatives to the Proposal						
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.						
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.
Stopping sight distances are maintained but due to curves in Barksdale Ave views of the crossing are obstructed further away by trees and shrubs in both directions. See Section 8.
 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.
The existing site is surrounded by Interstate 5, on-ramps and off-ramps, and local roads. Constructing an overcrossing or undercrossing would require elimination, reconstruction and/or relocation of these facilities.
 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.

1. Complete the following table, describing the sight distance for motorists when approaching the tracks from either direction. "Number of feet from proposed crossing" is measured from the outside track along the centerline of the "outside" lane. Sight distance is measured from the driver's position within the lane facing the crossing with the front of the vehicle the number of feet from the proposed crossing.

Note that sight distances from the I-5 Southbound Off Ramps are NOT reflected in the tables below. The I-5 Off Ramps are both parallel and very close to the tracks. Motorists on the Off-Ramp may have their forward visibility along the track, at certain angles, obstructed somewhat by the railroad crossing cantilever mast and gate mechanism. Since the tracks also extend behind motorists on the Off-Ramp, rearward visibility, though unlimited by obstacles, is likely to be zero, based on motorists' tendency to not look behind them. "Number of feet from proposed crossing" is measured from the outside track along the centerline of the "outside" lane. Sight distance is measured from the driver's position within the lane facing the crossing with the front of the vehicle the number of feet from the proposed crossing.



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	580 (obscured by trees)
Right	200	590 (obscured by trees)
Right	100	630 (obscured by trees)
Right	50	400 (obscured by trees)
Right	25	460 (obscured by trees)

Left	300	990 (obscured by trees)		
Left	200	230 (obscured by trees)		
Left	100	260 (obscured by trees)		
Left	50	330 (obscured by trees)		
Left	25	360 (obscured by trees)		

b. Approaching the crossing from <u>SOUTHEAST</u>, 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	200 (obscured by trees)		
Right	200 320 (obscured by trees)			
Right	100 350 (obscured by trees)			
Right	50	380 (obscured by trees)		
Right	25	390 (obscured by trees)		
Left	300	90 (obscured by trees)		
Left	200	150 (obscured by trees)		
Left	100	280 (obscured by trees)		
Left	50	680 (obscured by trees)		
Left	25	1350 (obscured by trees)		

2. Will the new	crossing pro	ovide a le	evel approach	measuring 25	feet from	the center	of the railway on
both approaches	to the cross	sing?					
Yes	No	1					

3. If not,	state in feet the length of level grade from the	ne center of the railwa	y on both approaches to the	e
crossing.	Looking north along the track: Right 0.7	6% for 10' to match	existing grade; Left 0.37	%
for 10' to	o match existing grade			

4.	Will the ne	w cro	ssing provide	an approach	grade of no	t more than	five percent	prior to the	level grade?
	Yes	1	No						

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

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 - Sidewalks

- 1. Provide the following information:
 - a. Provide a description of the type of sidewalks proposed.
 - b. Describe who will maintain the sidewalks.
 - c. Attach a proposed diagram or design of the crossing including the sidewalks.

This project will construct a new sidewalk on the north side of Barksdale across the railroad tracks. At the railroad crossing the pedestrian sidewalks will contain a buffer strip between the sidewalk and the concrete curb that will be used for the railroad warning devices. In advance of the pedestrian track crossing, truncated domes will be installed on the sidewalk surface to delineate the boundary between sidewalk and travel way for visually impaired pedestrians. Sidewalks will be maintained by WSDOT.

Section 11-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. If requesting pre-emption include the type of train detection circuitry, sequencing and advanced preemption time, justification for the changes and its effects on current warning devices and warning times for drivers.

The crossing will have active warning devices, including crossing gates, controlled by constant motion predictors. The warning lights are mounted on cantilevers.

All three traffic signals are proposed to run by one traffic signal controller. The railroad control equipment for the crossing is interconnected with the traffic signal controller using a 6-wire connection. Upon a preemption signal from the railroad control equipment the traffic signal controller will transfer right-of-way by stopping all vehicles moving towards the crossing and provide green lights for track clearance before the gates start to drop. Once the track clearance interval is complete and the gates are down, limited service will be provided for vehicles moving away from the crossing.

The traffic signal system will have a generator for backup power.

Blank-out signs with the symbol "No Right Turn" are proposed at the intersections of Barksdale/Dupont-Steilacom and the Southbound Off-Ramp from Interstate 5. This sign is illuminated when the railroad advanced pre-emption starts.

Section 12 – Traffic Signal Preemption

Complete the attached <u>Guide for Determining Time Requirements for Traffic Signal Preemption at Highway-Rail Grade Crossings</u> .
Specify simultaneous or advance preemption requested. Advance preemption
If advance preemption, what is the preemption time. 28 seconds

Waiver of Hearing
The undersigned represents the Respondent in the petition to install an inter-tie between the highway signal and the railroad crossing signal system at the following crossing.
USDOT Crossing No
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 agree the inter-tire should be installed and consent to a decision by the commission without a hearing.
Dated at, Washington, on the day of
Monest , 20 15.
Burens W Wagner
Printed name of Respondent
Signature of Respondent's Representative
Mon Purjue Projects NW DIVISION
Title
206.625.6152 Phono number and a mail address
Phone number and e-mail address
Exciters, Waspen@ BNSF.com
2013
Mailing address

Section 13 - Waiver of Hearing by Respondent

Waiver of Hearing
The undersigned represents the Respondent in the petition to install an inter-tie between the highway signal and the railroad crossing signal system at the following crossing.
USDOT Crossing No085836E
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 agree the inter-tire should be installed and consent to a decision by the commission without a hearing.
Dated at Door , Washington, on the 24 day of
FEBQUARY, 20 15.
Thomas E Danck, Sp. Printed name of Respondent
Signature of Respondent's Representative
City ADMINISTRATOR Title
Phone number and e-mail address
1700 Civit DR
Down was 98327 Mailing address Mailing address

Section 13 - Waiver of Hearing by Respondent

Waiver of Hearing
The undersigned represents the Respondent in the petition to install an inter-tie between the highway signal and the railroad crossing signal system at the following crossing.
USDOT Crossing No085836E
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 agree the inter-tire should be installed and consent to a decision by the commission without a hearing.
Dated at Tacoma, Washington, on the 19th day of
January , 20 15.
Tacoma Rail
Printed name of Respondent
Signature of Respondent's Representative
Roadmaster
Title
253-377-3554 KKellem & city of tacoma. org Phone number and e-mail address
2601 SR 509 N Frontage Rd.
Tacoma, WA 98421 Mailing address AR 30
SSION SERVEN

Section 13 - Waiver of Hearing by Respondent

Waiver of Hearing	
The undersigned represents the Respondent in the petition to install an inter-tie between the highway signal and the railroad crossing signal system at the following crossing.	
USDOT Crossing No085836E	
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 agree the inter-tire should be installed and consent to a decision by the commission without a hearing.	
Dated at Stattle, Washington, on the day of, 20 15.	
Printed name of Respondent	
Dan Sen	
Signature of Respondent's Representative Pail Passenger Saftery Mgs Title	
206 903 – 7363 Phone number and e-mail address	
901 Stackson St	
Gentle, WA 98104 Mailing address Mailing address	TANAGE VER
SON WASH 99	TAGE WE



WORKSHEET FOR DETERMINING TIME REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAFFIC SIGNAL PREEMPTION AT HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE CROSSINGS

For Future Conditions

Client	WSDOT Rail		Date	11/17/2014
City	Dupont		Completed by	CPS
County	Pierce		Checked by	JJS
Nor	th Arrow		Parallel Street Name Crossing Street Name Number of Tracks	Dupont-Steilacom Barksdale
C			Crossing Street	
Railroad		Traffic Sig	nal cas	arallel Street
085836E			The same of the sa	
Crossing D	OT #	- N	↑ Track	
Railroad Co	1111111111111	Railroad		ning Device
Train Cross	sing Speed 79			
3. Preempt verification of the second of the	esponse time to preempt (seconds) erification and response time (seconds): add lines 1 an conflicting vehicle time e conflicting vehicle phase number reen time during right-of-way transfer (seconds) in time during right-of-way transfer (seconds) inge time (seconds) ince time (seconds)	2 0.0 d 2 4 2 5 6.0 6 0 7 3.5 8 1	3 0.0 Remarks	
9. Worst-case	conflicting vehicle time (seconds): add lines 5 through	n 8	9 10.5	
orst-case	conflicting pedestrian time			
11. Minimum 12. Pedestriar 13. Vehicle ye 14. Vehicle re	te conflicting pedestrian phase number walk time during right-of-way transfer (seconds) in clearance time during right-of-way transfer (seconds) follow change time, if not included on line 12 (seconds) d clearance time, if not included on line 12 (seconds)	13 3.5 14 1.0		allows zero
	e conflicting pedestrian time (seconds): add lines 11 to	hrough 14 1	5 4.5	
	conflicting vehicle or pedestrian time		40 40 5	
	e conflicting vehicle or pedestrian time (seconds): mai			
17. Right-c	of-way transfer time (seconds): add lines	3 and 16		17 10.5

SECTION 2: QUEUE CLEARANCE TIME CALCULATION

