



WHATCOM COUNTY
Public Works Department
 322 N. Commercial Street, Ste 301
 Bellingham, WA 98225-4042
 Phone (360) 778-6210
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**LETTER OF
 TRANSMITTAL**

TO: Kathy Hunter
 Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission - Rail Safety Manager
 1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW
 Olympia, WA 98504-7250

FROM: James P. Karcher, P.E. - Engineering Manager *JPK*

DATE: February 21, 2017

RE: Petition to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission to construct quiet zone improvements at the U.S.D.O.T. Crossing #084796F at Yacht Club Rd., Whatcom County.

RECEIVED
 RECORDS MANAGEMENT
 2017 FEB 27 AM 11:42
 STATE OF WASH.
 UTIL. AND TRANSP.
 COMMISSION

COPY(S)	DATE	DESCRIPTION
1 - 5 pgs.	2017-02-21	Petition to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1 - 1 pg.	2017-02-21	Preliminary plan for the proposed improvements at the Yacht Club Road railway crossing
1 - 2 pgs.	2017-01-31	Whatcom County resolution for Public Works to proceed with the Petition to Washington UTC

WE ARE SENDING YOU:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Attached	<input type="checkbox"/>	Under separate cover via:		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Return 1 Original	<input type="checkbox"/>	With noted changes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Resubmit
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For approval	<input type="checkbox"/>	Approved as submitted	<input type="checkbox"/>	Return
<input type="checkbox"/>	For your use	<input type="checkbox"/>	For review and comment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Returned for corrections
<input type="checkbox"/>	As requested				

Remarks:


WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

)	DOCKET NO. TR-
)	
Whatcom County Council)	PETITION FOR INSTALLATION OF
_____)	MEDIAN BARRIERS AT A
Petitioner,)	HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE
)	CROSSING
vs.)	
Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway)	
_____)	
Respondent)	USDOT CROSSING NO.: #084796F
)	
.....)	

The Petitioner asks the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission to approve installation of median barriers at a highway-rail grade crossing.

Section 1 – Petitioner’s Information

Whatcom County

Petitioner


Signature
322 North Commercial Street, Suite 301

Street Address
Bellingham, WA 98225

City, State and Zip Code

Mailing Address, if different than the street address
James P. Karcher, P.E. – Engineering Manager

Contact Person Name
(360)778-6271 jkarcher@co.whatcom.wa.us

Contact Phone Number and Email Address

Section 2 – Respondent's Information

Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway

Respondent

2454 Occidental Avenue South, Suite 2D

Street Address

Seattle, WA 98134

City, State and Zip Code

Mailing Address, if different than the street address

Mr. Richard Wagner- Manager Public Projects

Contact Person Name

(206)685-6152 Richard.Wagner@BNSF.com

Contact Phone Number and Email Address

Section 3 – Crossing Location

1. Name of highway/roadway Yacht Club Road

2. Name of railroad BNSF Railway

3. USDOT Crossing No. 084796F

4. Located in the 1/4 of the 1/4 of Sec. 24 , Twp. 37N , Range 2E W.M.

5. GPS location, if known 48.6755733, -122.4892095

6. Railroad mile post (nearest tenth) 89.4

7. City Bellingham County Whatcom

Section 4 – Current Crossing Traffic

1. Type of public road at the crossing State County City
 Port State Park Other _____
2. Average daily vehicle traffic over the tracks 222 Vehicle speed limit 35
3. Number of lanes 2
4. Trucks (commercial vehicles) are what percent of average daily traffic 1%
5. Number of school buses over the crossing each day 0
6. Name of railroad(s) operating at crossing BNSF, AmTrak

7. Type of railroad at crossing Common Carrier Logging Industrial
 Passenger Excursion
8. Type of tracks at crossing Main Line Siding or Spur
9. Number of tracks at crossing 1
10. Average daily train traffic, freight 20
 Authorized freight train speed 59 Operated freight train speed 50
11. Average daily train traffic, passenger 2
 Authorized passenger train speed 79 Operated passenger train speed 79

Section 5 – Justification

1. Provide the following information:

a. Describe in detail the why this crossing should have median barriers installed.

Yacht Club Road is a no outlet road that accesses 32 residences. The majority of these residents make up the average daily traffic (ADT) of 111 motorists each way. The residents have been the principal driving force for the implementation of this safety measure and have organized funds for the construction of the median. This community using the crossing is involved, educated and astutely aware of the safety measures being installed and the potential hazards of circumventing the existing and proposed safety measures. The medians will provide a physical deterrent in the absence of the train horn which only provides a warning to motorists. The crossing will maintain the existing warning devices consisting of: two (2) entrance gates, advanced warning signs, bells and the 12 flashing lights. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has calculated the risk, using their method for calculating potential risk of incident at grade crossings, and the risk index has decreased by nearly 40% with the additions of medians and discontinuation of the train horn.

b. Provide a description of the type of median barriers proposed.

The mountable median is constructed of a high strength composite material. It is 10-5/8 inches wide and has a dome shape that is 4 inches tall. The 44 inch sections fasten together and are anchored to the pavement using a nylon expansion molly and 5/8 inch by 6 inch lag screws. The reflective traffic channelization devices are attached to the curb using a rubber boot that slides into a machined groove in the curb at 80 inch intervals. These reflective traffic channelization devices are 40 inches by 8-3/4 inches with 232 square inches of type III reflective sheeting on both sides. The break away reflective traffic channelization devices provide an effective deterrent for the typical motorists.

c. Describe who will maintain the barriers.

The proposed barriers will be maintained by Whatcom County Public Works' Maintenance and Operations Division. The barriers will be maintained at the original installed condition and all damage compromising the functionality of the barrier will be corrected immediately. A thorough annual inspection will be conducted to ensure that there is no degradation of the material and the inspection will be documented and provided to the UTC, FRA, or BNSF upon request. After installation of the proposed barrier Whatcom County intends to monitor the site and maintain a clear line of communication to identify and address any violations that may occur during this time. If violations become an issue, Whatcom County recognizes that adjustments may need to be made.

d. Attach a proposed diagram or design of the crossing and median barriers.

Please see the attached plan of the proposed improvements.

Section 6 – Waiver of Hearing by Respondent

Waiver of Hearing

The undersigned represents the Respondent in the petition to install median barriers 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 installation of median barriers should be made 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

Company Name

Phone number and email address

Mailing address

PROPOSED BY: Public Works

INTRODUCTION DATE: _____

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-007

AMENDING CRP No. 916008, AND AUTHORIZING PUBLIC WORKS TO: 1)
PROCEED WITH PETITIONING THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE YACHT CLUB
ROAD AT-GRADE RAILROAD CROSSING; AND 2) CONSTRUCT IMPROVEMENTS
USING PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT'S "COUNTY FORCES".

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Whatcom County Public Works Department that alteration in the method and manner of the existing Yacht Club Road at-grade crossing and its approaches is required by public safety and should occur in the form of additional safety measure improvements; and

WHEREAS, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission requires a petition for such alteration of the Yacht Club Road at-grade railroad crossing, per Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 81.53.060; and,

WHEREAS, said RCW 81.53.060 requires legislative authority be invoked as a condition of the petition process, and the Whatcom County Council is said legislative authority; and,

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Council unanimously adopts the position that the alteration in the method and manner of the existing crossing and its approaches is required by public safety, supports the plans for the proposed improvements at the said crossing, and desires that the Whatcom County Public Works Department submit the required petition on its behalf to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Public Works Department is required to inform and receive approval from the Whatcom County Council before utilizing "County Forces" in capital construction project; and,

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Public Works Department desires to have the option to utilize "County forces" in the construction of additional safety measures at the Yacht Club Road at-grade crossing; and,

WHEREAS, upon the request of the Whatcom County Public Works Department and the recommendation of the County Executive, the Whatcom County Council, in a separate Council Action, will also be supplementing the project budget for the additional funds needed for construction of the proposed improvements;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Whatcom County Council as the legislative authority of the County to request that Public Works submit a petition on its behalf to the Utilities and Transportation Commission for the Yacht Club Road at-grade railroad crossing improvements; and,

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL AGENDA BILL

NO. 2017-043A

CLEARANCES	Initial	Date	Date Received in Council Office	Agenda Date	Assigned to:
Originator: James Karcher, P.E.	<i>GPK</i>	1-25-17	RECEIVED JAN 31 2017 WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL	02/07/2017	Public Works Committee/Council
Division Head: Joe Rutan, P.E.	<i>JR</i>	1-26-17			
Dept. Head: Jon Hutchings	<i>JH</i>	1-26-17			
Prosecutor: Daniel Gibson	<i>DG</i>	01/26/17			
Purchasing/Budget: Brad Bennett	<i>MB</i>	1/27/17			
Executive: Jack Louws	<i>JL</i>	1/30/17			

TITLE OF DOCUMENT:

Resolution to amend CRP No. 916008, Yacht Club Road Railroad Quiet Zone.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Memo
2. Resolution
3. Project Narrative

SEPA review required? () Yes (x) NO
 SEPA review completed? () Yes (x) NO

Should Clerk schedule a hearing? () Yes (x) NO
 Requested Date:

SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE: (If this item is an ordinance or requires a public hearing, you must provide the language for use in the required public notice. Be specific and cite RCW or WCC as appropriate. Be clear in explaining the intent of the action.)

Public Works is requesting the adoption of a resolution granting legislative authority to: 1) proceed with a petition to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) for the improvements to the Yacht Club Road at-grade railroad crossing; and 2) for authorization to use Public Works "County Forces" to perform the proposed work.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

2/7/2017: Forwarded to Council for approval

COUNCIL ACTION:

2/7/2017: Approved 7-0, Res. 2017-007

Related County Contract #:

Related File Numbers:

Ordinance or Resolution Number:

Res. 2017-007

Please Note: Once adopted and signed, ordinances and resolutions are available for viewing and printing on the County's website at: www.co.whatcom.wa.us/council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Whatcom County Public Works Department's forces are authorized to perform the proposed railroad crossing improvements.

APPROVED this 7th day of February, 2017.

ATTEST:



Dana Brown-Davis, County Clerk

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Barry Buchanan
Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Daniel L. Gibson
Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor