

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Chelan County.  
Petitioner,

v.

BNSF Railway Company  
Respondent.

DOCKET NO. TR-

CHELAN COUNTY'S PETITION FOR  
ALTERATION OF A HIGHWAY-RAIL  
OVER-CROSSING

USDOT CROSSING NO.: 084468N

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State Of WASH.  
UTIL. AND TRANSP.  
COMMISSION

The Petitioner asks the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission to approve replacement of a highway-rail over-crossing with a new, modern bridge at approximately the same location as the existing bridge. RCW 81.53.060.

*Section 1 –Petitioner's Information*

Chelan County

Petitioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin Overbay, Chairman, Board of County Commissioners

400 Douglas Street, Suite 201, Wenatchee, Washington 98801

Address

Robert W. Sealby, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

Contact Person and Counsel for Petitioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

WSBA No. 21330

Chelan County Prosecuting Attorney's Office

401 Washington Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, P.O. Box 2596, Wenatchee, WA 98801

Counsel's Mailing Address

509.667.6202, ext 6643 robert.sealby@co.chelan.wa.us

Telephone Number and E-mail Address

*Section 2 - Respondent's Information*

BNSF Railway Company

Respondent

2454 Occidental Avenue South, Suite 2D, Seattle, WA 98134

Mailing Address

Stephen Semenick, Manager of Public Projects

Contact Person Name and Title

206.625.6152 [Stephen.Semenick@BNSF.com](mailto:Stephen.Semenick@BNSF.com)

Phone Number and Email Address

*Section 3 – Crossing Location and Highway Information*

1. Name of highway/roadway: Goodwin Road

2. Type of road over-crossing: County road

3. Name of railroad: BNSF Railway Company

4. USDOT Crossing No. 084468N

5. Located in: SW ¼ Section 32, Township 24N, Range 19, East of the Willamette Meridian, Chelan County, Washington

6. GPS location: 47°31.603' -120°29.33'

6. Railroad mile post (nearest tenth): 1662.23

7. City: Cashmere County: Chelan

*Section 4 – Current Railroad Traffic*

1. Railroads operating at crossing: BNSF Railway Company Amtrak

2. Types of railroad at crossing: Common Carrier Passenger

3. Type of tracks at crossing: Mainline

4. Number of tracks at crossing: 1

5. Average daily train traffic, freight: 15

Authorized freight train speed: 35 mph Operated freight train speed: 35 mph

6. Average daily train traffic, passenger: 3

Authorized passenger train speed: 40

Operated passenger train speed: 40

*Section 5 – Justification*

The West Cashmere Bridge highway-railroad over-crossing should be replaced with a new, modern bridge for the following reasons:

1. This fracture-critical highway bridge is over 85 years old, functionally obsolete, structurally-deficient, and deteriorating with decreasing load carrying capacity. Bridge weight and height restrictions require freight traffic to and from US Highway 2 to divert through Cashmere's historic downtown and through residential and school zones.

2. Bridge replacement is a better use of public funds than investing millions of dollars into rehabilitation and retrofit projects to increase the longevity of this functionally obsolete and structurally-deficient bridge.

3. The bridge is the only grade-separated crossing of the major BNSF Railway Company line that bisects Cashmere. At-grade crossing Nos. 084464L and 084462X are nearby in the city core. The over-crossing bridge is the only viable option for fire and emergency response to access Cashmere south of the railroad tracks should a

locomotive block the at-grade crossings in the city. Also, bridge width does not allow safe pedestrian or bicycle travel.

4. The bridge's condition complicates general traffic circulation throughout the community. Increased deterioration and the potential for closure of the bridge along with the nearby at-grade railroad crossings exacerbate challenges for freight access and economic development for the City of Cashmere and the adjacent county lands, which rely heavily on an agricultural-based economy.

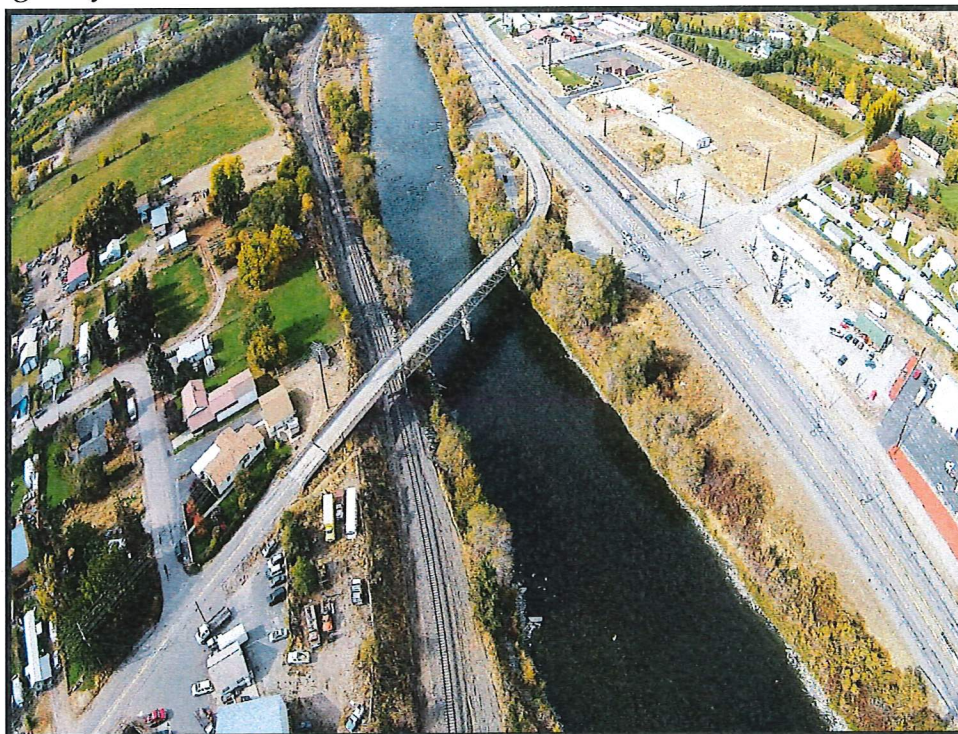
### *Section 6 - Project Description and Funding*

Chelan County plans to replace the West Cashmere Bridge over-crossing with a new, modern bridge at approximately the same location as the existing bridge. See Section 7.

The county will be responsible for bridge replacement and maintenance. The county road project will be funded through a combination of federal, state, local, and private funding.

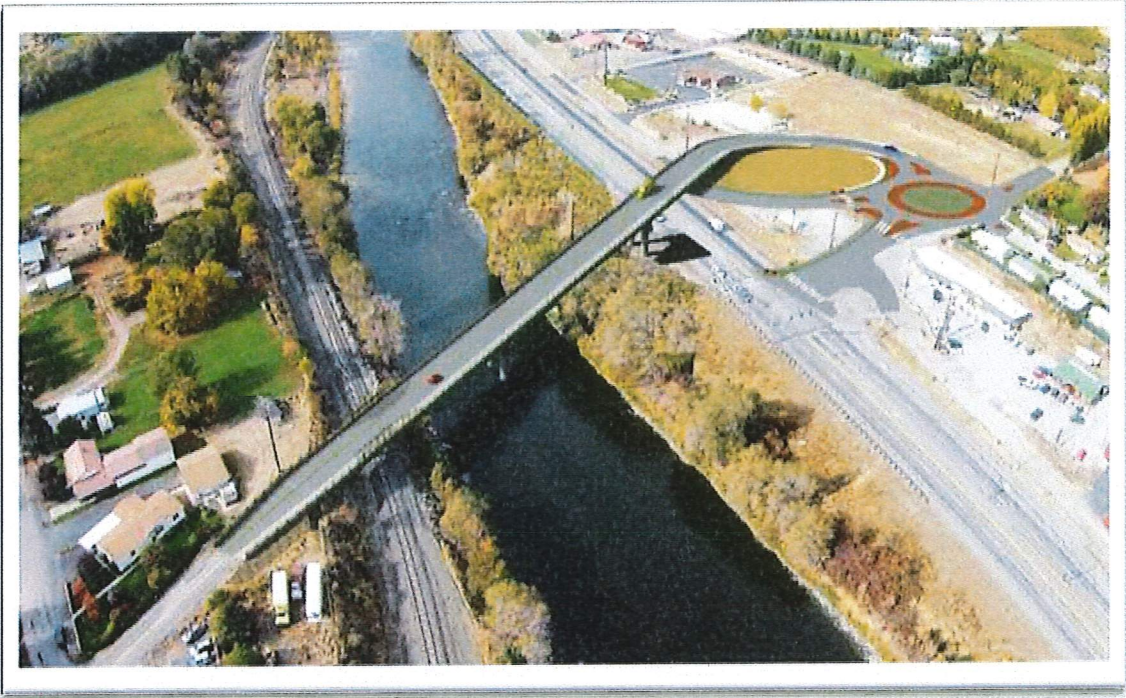
### *Section 7 – Illustrations of the Crossing*

1. Existing over-crossing. The illustration below shows the relative locations of the railroad, the existing West Cashmere Bridge over-crossing, the county's Goodwin Road, and US Highway 2.





2. Concept drawing for proposed over-crossing replacement. The illustration below shows the proposed alteration and replacement of the West Cashmere Bridge over-crossing.



Section 8 – Waiver of Hearing by Respondent

The undersigned represents the Respondent in the petition for alteration and replacement of a highway-rail over-crossing at the following over-crossing:

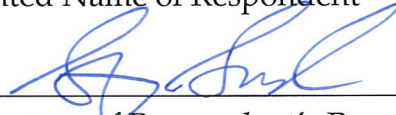
USDOT Crossing No. 084468N

We have investigated the conditions at the highway-rail over-crossing. We are satisfied the conditions are the same as described by the Petitioner in this docket. We agree that the over-crossing should be replaced and consent to a decision by the commission without a hearing.

Dated at Seattle, Washington, on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2019.

Stephen Semenic

Printed Name of Respondent



Signature of Respondent's Representative

Manager Public Projects

Title

206-625-6152 ; stephen.semenic@BNSF.com

Phone Number and Email Address

2454 Occidental Ave S, Ste 2D, Seattle, WA 98134

Mailing Address