



WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Petitioner,

vs.

BNSF Railway Company

Respondent

DOCKET NO. TR-

PETITION TO MODIFY WARNING
DEVICES AT A HIGHWAY-
RAILROAD GRADE CROSSING

USDOT: 090183R

By filing this petition with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC), the Petitioner alleges that public safety requires the modification of a highway-rail grade crossing under [RCW 81.53.261](#).

Section 1 – Petitioner’s Information

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Petitioner

Patnode, Brian
(PARKS)
Digitally signed by Patnode, Brian (PARKS)
Date: 2024.07.08 08:37:08 -07'00'

Signature

270 9th St. NE Suite #200

Street Address

East Wenatchee, WA 98802

City, State and Zip Code

Mailing Address, if different than the street address

Brian Patnode

Contact Person Name & Signature

509-885-0397, brian.patnode@parks.wa.gov

Contact Phone Number and Email

Section 2 – Respondent’s Information

BNSF Railway Company
Respondent
1310 W 11th St
Street Address
Vancouver, WA 98660
City, State and Zip Code
Mailing Address, if different than the street address
Kyle Leatham, Manager Public Projects
Contact Person Name
(425) 210-8084, Kyle.Leatham@BNSF.com
Contact Phone Number and Email

Section 3 – Crossing Location

1. Existing highway/roadway:	Horsethief Lake Park Road		
2. Existing railroad:	BNSF		
3. USDOT Crossing No.:	090183R		
4. GPS location:	45.640016, -121.104024		
5. Railroad mile post (nearest tenth):	98.5		
6. City:	Lyle	County:	Klickitat

Section 4 – Highway Information

1. Name of highway: Columbia Hills State Park Road

2. Road authority: Washington State Parks

3. Average annual daily traffic (AADT): 5

4. Number of lanes: 2

5. Roadway speed: 20

6. Is the crossing part of an established truck route? Yes No

7. If so, trucks are what percent of total daily traffic?

8. Is the crossing part of an established school bus route? Yes No

9. If so, how many school buses travel over the crossing each day?

10. Describe any changes to the information in 1 through 7, above, expected within ten years:

N/A

11. What is the available sight distance from the stop bar (or 25 feet from the tracks if no stop bar) on both approaches to the crossing?

500 feet

12. If the sight distance is less than 400 feet, describe the structures, roadway or track curvature, visual obstacles or other characteristics that limit sight distance:

Section 5 – Railroad Information

1. Railroad company:

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:

5. Average daily train traffic, freight:

Authorized freight train speed: Operated freight train speed:

6. Average daily train traffic, passenger:

Authorized passenger train speed: Operated passenger train speed:

7. Describe any changes to the information in 1 through 4, above, expected within ten years:

Section 6 – Current Warning Devices

Provide a complete description of the warning devices currently located at the crossing (vehicle and pedestrian), including signs, gates, lights, train detection circuitry, and any other warning devices.

Advance warning sign (W10-1)
No Gates or Lights sign (W10-14)
Crossbucks
Stop sign (R1-1)

Section 7 – Description of Proposed Changes

Describe in detail the number and type of proposed automatic signals (vehicle and pedestrian), gates, other warning devices, and/or changes to train detection circuitry. ([RCW 81.53.271](#)) Please describe any other proposed changes at the crossing, including changes to the crossing surface, signage, pavement markings, etc. If sidewalks are being installed, please provide information on who will maintain them. Attach additional information sheets, if needed.

Existing Stop signs will be replaced with new flashing, solar powered LED stop signs and posts in the same location.

Section 8 – Illustration of Crossing

Attach a detailed diagram, design drawing, map, or other illustration showing the current and proposed layout of the road, crossing surface, and railway in the vicinity of the crossing, including shoulders, sidewalks, lanes of travel, bike lanes, warning devices, pavement markings and any other applicable crossing conditions.

Section 9 – Description of Public Safety Need

Describe and support the public safety need for the proposed changes. ([RCW 81.53.261](#))

This crossing was identified in the 2014 Marine and Rail Oil Transportation Study as an at-risk crossing on a crude oil route. UTC staff worked with State Parks and BNSF on improving warning devices at the crossing. Installation of active warning devices is currently not feasible due to logistics at the crossing and lack of funding. Flashing Stop signs will provide more visibility for the public in this location than the existing standard Stop signs and improve safety.

Section 10 – Approximate Cost of Installation and Related Work

Provide the approximate cost of installation and related work for the proposed changes to signals and/or warning devices. ([RCW 81.53.271](#))

\$7,500

Section 11 – Approximate Cost of Annual Maintenance

Provide the approximate cost of annual maintenance for the signals and/or warning devices. ([RCW 81.53.271](#))

\$500 per year

Section 12 – Cost Apportionment

If the commission directs the installation of or changes to the warning devices requested in this petition, it will apportion installation and maintenance costs in accordance with the applicable statutes. (RCW 81.53.261-295)

Interested parties may instead enter into an agreement providing for the installation of signals or other warning devices or for the apportionment of the cost of installation and maintenance. (RCW 81.53.261) **If the parties to this petition have reached an agreement related to apportionment of costs, please sign here to confirm:**

Petitioner Signature:

Patnode, Brian
(PARKS)
Digitally signed by Patnode, Brian (PARKS)
Date: 2024.07.08 08:38:08 -07'00'

Respondent Signature:

Kyle Leatham
Digitally signed by Kyle Leatham
Date: 2024.07.29 09:35:06 -07'00'

Section 13 – Waiver of Hearing by Respondent

Waiver of Hearing

The undersigned represents the Respondent in the petition to modify highway-rail grade crossing warning devices 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 warning devices should be modified and consent to a decision by the commission without a hearing.

Dated at , Washington, on the day of .

Printed name of Respondent

Digitally signed by Kyle Leatham
Date: 2024.07.29 10:04:24 -07'00'

Signature of Respondent's Representative

Title

Phone Number

Email Address

Mailing address

Checklist prior to submitting petition:

- ✓ Ensure all petition fields are completed.
- ✓ Ensure parties sign Section 12 regarding any Cost Apportionment agreement, if applicable.
- ✓ Obtain signature on Waiver of Hearing (Section 13). *If respondent fails to sign Waiver, advise UTC staff upon submission.*
- ✓ Attach copies of:
 - Illustration of crossing (described in Section 8).
 - Any other relevant documents to support the petition, including but not limited to support of public need, project information, etc.

Submitting the petition: To officially file the petition, send the petition form and supporting documents via [Efiling](#).

Questions: For questions, please contact:

<p>Mike Turcott Transportation Planning Specialist mike.turcott@utc.wa.gov (360) 764-0572</p>	<p>Tyler Whitcomb Transportation Planning Specialist tyler.whitcomb@utc.wa.gov (564) 669-0943</p>
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