WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

City of North Bend Petitioner, vs. Northwest Railway Museum Respondent	DOCKET NO. TR- PETITION TO MODIFY WARNING DEVICES AT A HIGHWAY-RAILROAD GRADE CROSSING USDOT: 092037S

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

City of North Bend
Petitioner


Signature

920 SE Cedar Falls Way
Street Address

North Bend, WA 98045
City, State and Zip Code

Mailing Address, if different than the street address

Dan Marcinko
Contact Person Name & Signature

425.577.1528 dmarcinko@northbend.gov
Contact Phone Number and Email

Section 2 – Respondent's Information

Northwest Railway Museum
Respondent

9312 Stone Quarry Road
Street Address

Snoqualmie, WA 98065
City, State and Zip Code

PO Box 459, Snoqualmie, WA 98065
Mailing Address, if different than the street address

Richard Anderson
Contact Person Name

425.301.1566 richard@TrainMuseum.org
Contact Phone Number and Email

Section 3 – Crossing Location

1. Existing highway/roadway: NW 8th Street
2. Existing railroad: Northwest Railway Museum - Snoqualmie Valley RR
3. USDOT Crossing No.: 092037S
4. GPS location: 47°29'59"N, 121°47'50"W
5. Railroad mile post (nearest tenth): 35.36
6. City: North Bend County: King County

Section 4 – Highway Information

1. Name of highway: NW 8th Street

2. Road authority: City of North Bend

3. Average annual daily traffic (AADT): 500

4. Number of lanes: 2

5. Roadway speed: 25

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

7. If so, trucks are what percent of total daily traffic? 25

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? 0

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

AADT is expected to increase with the construction of an adjacent new 3/4 million square foot warehouse.

A new adjacent crossing is proposed for construction in 2026 and will feature a new adjacent traffic roundabout.

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?

North Bound: 900 feet east, 900 feet west
South Bound: 900 feet east, 900 feet west

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: Northwest Railway Museum - Snoqualmie Valley RR

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: 1

5. Average daily train traffic, freight: 0

   Authorized freight train speed: 0 Operated freight train speed: 0

6. Average daily train traffic, passenger: 2

   Authorized passenger train speed: 25 Operated passenger train speed: 20

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

Average daily passenger train traffic will increase to 6. Operated passenger train speed will increase to 25.

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.

- 2 crossbucks,
- 2 yield signs,
- 2 stop bar pavement markings,
- 2 advance warning signs.

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.

- Replace existing rubber crossing with concrete and increase length from 56 feet to 96 feet to accommodate shared use ped/bicycle crossings at 90 degrees on both sides of crossing,
- Add passive rail trespass deterrence,
- Add tactile warning surface on either side of shared use pathways,
- Add four sets of R-15-1 crossbucks on shared pathway crossing,
- Add four sets of R-15-8 look signs on shared pathway crossings,
- install constant warning time train detection device,
- add four sets of flashing light pairs,
- add two automatic bells,
- add automatic gates.

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)

- NW 8th is the only way in/out for trucks arriving and departing from Nintendo USA and there have been several near misses at the crossing involving semi trucks,
- In 2026 this crossing will be incorporated into the last 100 feet of road approaching a traffic round about. Crossing signals will help prevent traffic from queuing up over the rail crossing.
- Existing rubber crossing has reached end-of-life,
- 90 degree shared use pathway crossings will improve bicycle and pedestrian safety,
- Constant warning time detection device will assure public confidence by eliminating unnecessarily long warning times and resetting when trains stop in approach blocks,
- Constant warning time detection device will allow compatibility with adjacent crossing approach circuits.

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)

$400,000 to be funded with a section 130 crossing safety improvement grant.

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)

$15,000 to be funded by the railroad.

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: Respondent Signature:

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. 092037S

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 Snoqualmie, Washington, on the 28 day of October, 2024.

Northwest Railway Museum- Snoqualmie valley Railroad
Printed name of Respondent

Signature of Respondent's Representative

Executive Director
Title

425.301.1566
Phone Number

richard@trainmuseum.org
Email Address

PO Box 459
Snoqualmie, WA 98065
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:

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