

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

King County,	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	DOCKET NO. TR-980280
	)	
vs.	)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION
	)	FOR WAIVER OF CLEARANCE RULES
The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe	)	
Railroad Company,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	
	)	
.....	)	

By petition filed with the Commission on March 4, 1998, King County requests the commission to waive height clearance rules for a pedestrian walkway to be built over tracks owned by the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company at the King Street Station in Seattle, King County, Washington.

King County is proposing to construct improvements to the King Street Railroad Station which include a pedestrian walkway bridge from Weller Street over the railroad company's tracks to the station grounds. Due to restraints caused by the geography of the site, existing structures and construction codes, the walkway cannot be built at a height sufficient to meet commission clearance rules. Current rules require a clearance of 22 feet 6 inches. King County requests permission to decrease the clearance to 20.5 feet on certain portions of the walkway over the western stub tracks and stub tracks 1, 2, 3, and 4. Clearances over main line tracks will equal or exceed minimum requirements.

The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company has reviewed the plans submitted by petitioner and has no objection to the proposed pedestrian walkway and the requested waiver. Its letter stating that it has no objection is on file herein.

Staff has investigated the request. Staff found that the requested waiver is needed to complete construction of the proposed pedestrian walkway bridge. Height clearance rules were originally adopted to protect employees who are walking on the top of rail cars. Since employees are no longer allowed to be on top of moving rail cars, the rules are not needed for the original purpose; however, concerns about heights of rail cars remain. The proposed waiver will not apply over the main line tracks which would be of greatest concern. The railroads involved have

reviewed the plans and have no operating concerns regarding the side tracks to which the waivers would apply. Staff recommends granting waivers of height clearance rules in this instance.

The Commissioners, having reviewed the petition and being fully advised in the matter, believe that granting the petition, subject to the conditions set forth below, is essential to the construction of needed improvements at or near the King Street Railroad Station, does not violate the public interest, and does not increase danger to any persons.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS that the petition of King County for a waiver of clearance rules shall be, and the same is hereby, granted on the condition that construction and operation be as set forth in the plans and specifications provided in the application and attached to this order as Annex A. This waiver shall not apply to main line tracks. Clearances shall equal or exceed 20.5 feet at all other tracks involved in the attached Annex A.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that petitioner must inform the commission within one week after all construction has been completed.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 8<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1998.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION



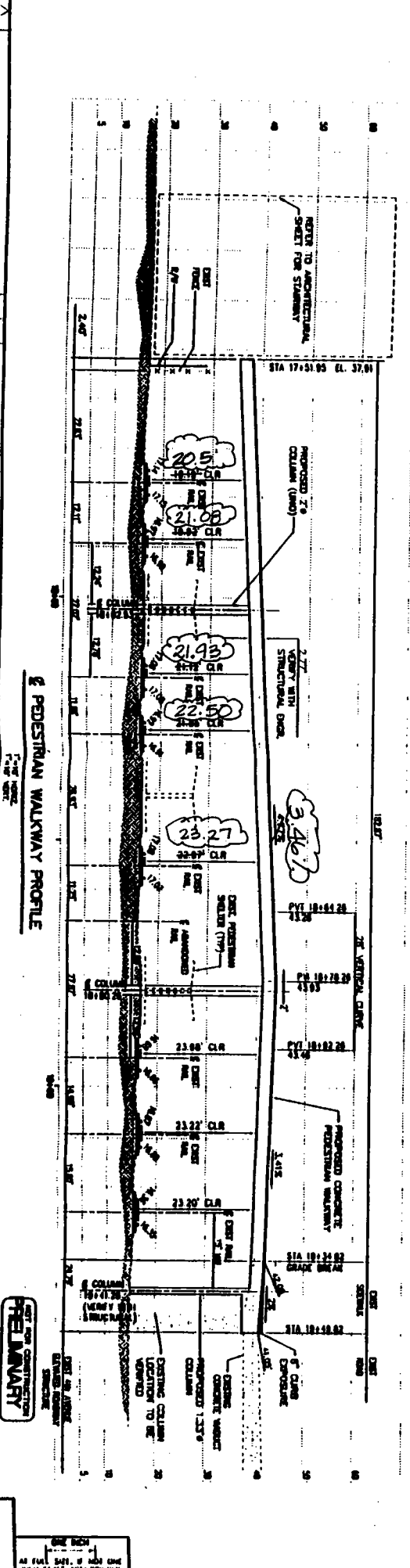
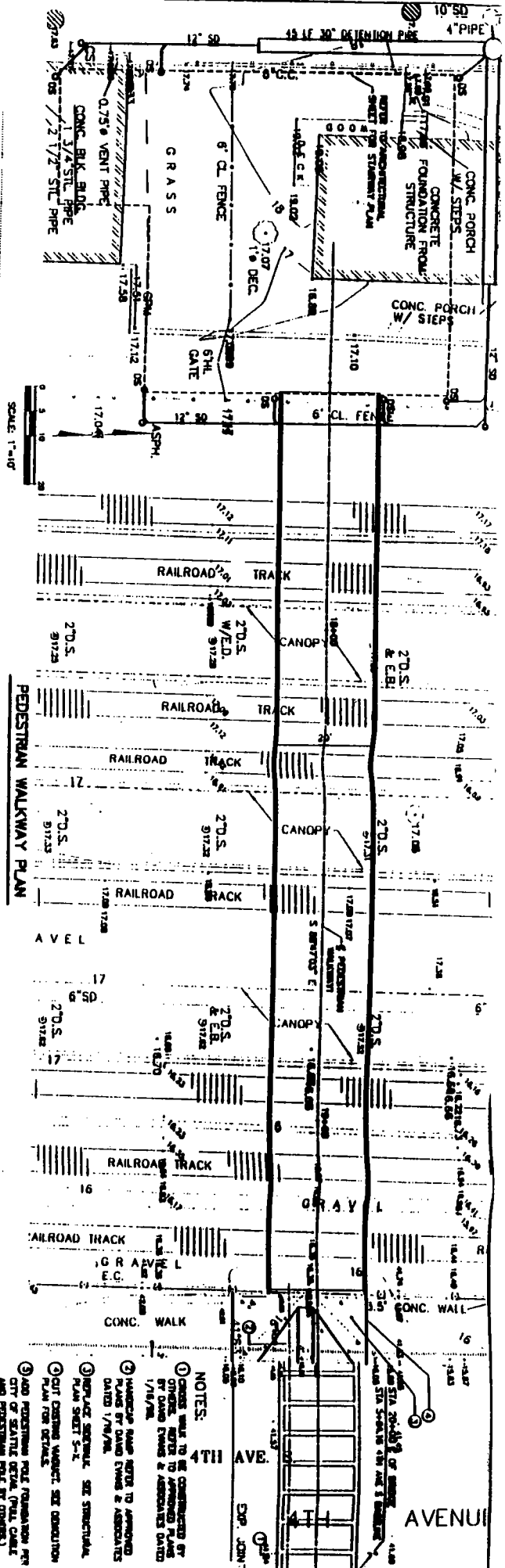
ANNE LEVINSON, Chair



RICHARD HEMSTAD, Commissioner



WILLIAM R. GILLIS, Commissioner



REV. PER AMT/TKR	DATE	BY	CHKD.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 WALKER STREET ELEVATED PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY  
 HORIZONTAL LAYOUT & DRAINAGE PLAN  
 30% SUBMITTAL  
 C-1

- NOTES:
- 1) CONCRETE WALK TO BE CONSTRUCTED BY OTHER TRADES TO APPROVED PLANS DATED 1/16/18.
  - 2) WALKWAY WALK TO BE CONSTRUCTED BY OTHER TRADES TO APPROVED PLANS DATED 1/16/18.
  - 3) REFERENCE STRUCTURE SEE STRUCTURAL PLAN SHEET S-1.
  - 4) OUT CROSSING WALKWAY SEE DETAIL FOR DETAILS.
  - 5) 4'00\"/>