



TR-061809

RECEIVED
06 SEP 21 AM 8:49

September 20, 2006

Vicki Elliot
Assistant Director Transportation Safety
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
PO Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Subject: Request for horizontal clearance waiver

Dear Ms. Elliot:

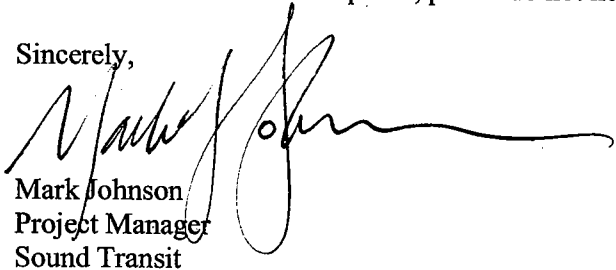
Sound Transit is planning to construct two new stations prior to beginning passenger service from Tacoma to Lakewood. The South Tacoma station is located between MP 5.9 and MP 6.1 on the Lakeview Subdivision. The Lakewood station is located between MP 0.2X and MP 0.4X on the Lakeview Spur. During the period of construction there will be a restricted side clearance of 5' - 6 3/4" from the centerline of track at 1' - 9" above top of rail. Both locations are on tangent track.

We have been in contact with Tacoma Rail, the normal operator of freight service on the line and BNSF who also have operating rights on the line. Both parties have forwarded letters of support for this request. (copies included)

I have attached copies of drawing DGM-1A showing normal car movements on the line and DGM-2 showing the WUTC clearance diagram with conflict.

As this clearance waiver is the last piece of documentation we need prior to going to tender, an early response would be greatly appreciated. If I can be of any assistance, or if further discussion is required, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,


Mark Johnson
Project Manager
Sound Transit

BOARD CHAIR

John W. Ladenburg
Pierce County Executive

BOARD VICE CHAIRS

Connie Marshall
Bellevue Councilmember

Mark Olson
Everett Councilmember

BOARD MEMBERS

Julie Anderson
Tacoma Councilmember

Mary-Alyce Burleigh
Kirkland Councilmember

Fred Butler
Issaquah Deputy Council President

Dow Constantine
King County Councilmember

Dave Enslow
Sumner Mayor

Doug MacDonald
*Washington State Department
of Transportation Secretary*

Richard Marin
Edmonds Councilmember

Richard McIver
Seattle Councilmember

Greg Nickles
Seattle Mayor

Julia Patterson
King County Councilmember

Larry Phillips
Chair, King County Council

Aaron Reardon
Snohomish County Executive

Ron Sims
King County Executive

Claudia Thomas
Lakewood Mayor

Pete von Reichbauer
Vice Chair, King County Council

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Joni Earl



2601 SR 509 North Frontage Road

Tacoma, Washington 98421

TACOMA PUBLIC UTILITIES

To Whom It May Concern:

Tacoma Rail understands that during construction of their Lakewood and South Tacoma Stations that there will be a restricted side clearance of 5'-6 3/4" from the centerline of the track at 1'-9" above the top of the rail by Sound Transit or their contractors. The South Tacoma station location is between the 5.9 MP and the 6.1 MP on the Lakeview Sub. The Lakewood station location is between 0.2X MP and 0.4X MP on the Lakeview Spur. It is my understanding that both locations will be on tangent track. Normal rail equipment that Tacoma Rail handles has maximum width of 10'-8" and Tacoma Rail has no plans to operate dimensional (oversize) loads with rail equipment that would interfere with this restriction during the construction of the platforms. However, this would not meet WUTC clearance standards for railroad personnel riding on the side of the car.

Tacoma Rail also understands that Sound Transit will be applying for a temporary construction waiver from the WUTC at both locations for the reduced side clearance. Tacoma Rail will support the waiver request if the following conditions are met:

- 1) **Tacoma Rail will, at Sound Transit's expense, install high intensity close clearance signs in advance of each location and issue safety bulletins and special instructions to train crews operating in these areas;**
- 2) **Sound Transit or their contractor will clearly mark any structure that is inside the restricted dimensions with a material and lighting that will make the obstruction clearly visible at all times either day or night;**
- 3) **Sound Transit will be responsible for compliance by their personnel and by their contractors and will promptly rectify any issues regarding this waiver;**
- 4) **No other restricted clearance will be allowed under the same waiver. Any other restriction problem will have to have an additional waiver. This includes any height restrictions under the WUTC standards and any width restrictions above the normal deck height of any AAR railcar standard.**

**WARNING
CLOSE
CLEARANCE
DO NOT RIDE SIDE
~~OR TOP~~ OF CAR**

Alan Hardy

Section Manager, Mechanical and Construction



Gregory Jacobson
Division Engineer
Northwest Division

BNSF Railway Company

2454 Occidental Avenue S 1A
Seattle, WA 98134

206-625-6363
206-625-6265 FAX
Gregory.Jacobson@bnsf.com

September 14, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

Please consider this letter as approval for Sound Transits application concerning restricted horizontal clearances as mentioned in the Tacoma Rail letter with specifications signed by Mr. Hardy, Section Manager, Mechanical and Construction.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory Jacobson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small circular mark at the end of the line.

Gregory Jacobson
Division Engineer

GAJ/ks