



WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

City of Spokane Valley
Petitioner,

vs.

BNSF Railway Company
Respondent

DOCKET NO. TR-

PETITION TO CLOSE A HIGHWAY-
RAIL GRADE CROSSING

USDOT CROSSING NO.: 066245A

The Petitioner asks the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) to approve the closure of a public at-grade highway-railroad crossing as described in this petition.


Prior to submitting this petition to the UTC, State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA) requirements must be met. Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 197-11-865 (2) requires:

All actions of the utilities and transportation commission under statutes administered as of December 12, 1975, are exempted, except the following:

(2) Authorization of the openings or closing of any highway/railroad grade crossing, or the direction of physical connection of the line of one railroad with that of another;

Please attach sufficient documentation to demonstrate that the SEPA requirement has been fulfilled. For additional information on SEPA requirements contact the Department of Ecology.

Section 1 – Petitioner’s Information

City of Spokane Valley
Petitioner

Signature
10210 E. Sprague Avenue
Street Address
Spokane Valley, WA 99206
City, State and Zip Code
Mailing Address, if different than the street address
Robert Lochmiller
Contact Person Name
509-720-5010, rlochmiller@spokanevalley.org
Contact Phone Number and E-mail Address

Section 2 – Respondent’s Information

BNSF Railway Company
Respondent
2454 Occidental Avenue, Suite #2D 1A ^{MT}
Street Address
Seattle, WA 98134
City, State and Zip Code
Mailing Address, if different than the street address
Stephen Semenick
Contact Person Name
206-625-6125, Stephen.Semenick@BNSF.com
Contact Phone Number and E-mail Address

Section 3 – Crossing Location

1. Existing highway/roadway <u>Flora Road</u>
2. Existing railroad <u>BNSF Railway</u>
3. GPS location <u>47.696274, -117.175406</u>
4. Railroad mile post (nearest tenth) <u>59.90</u>
5. City <u>Spokane Valley</u> County <u>Spokane County</u>

Section 4 – Current Highway Traffic Information

1. Name of roadway/highway <u>Flora Road</u>
2. Roadway classification <u>Local</u>
3. Road authority <u>Spokane Valley</u>
4. Average annual daily traffic (AADT) <u>2,000 (2018)</u>
5. Number of lanes <u>2 lanes</u>
6. Roadway speed <u>35 mph</u>
7. Is the road part of an established truck route? Yes _____ No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8. If so, trucks are what percent of total daily traffic? <u>19.7%</u>
9. Is the road part of an established school bus route? Yes _____ No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10. If so, how many school buses travel over the crossing each day? _____
11. Describe any changes to the information in 1 through 9, above, expected within ten years: _____

Section 5 – Railroad Information

1. Railroad company BNSF Railway

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 Currently 1 (BNSF has future plans to add another track)

5. Average daily train traffic, freight 50
Authorized freight train speed 60 mph Operated freight train speed 60 mph

6. Average daily train traffic, passenger 2
Authorized passenger train speed 79 mph Operated passenger train speed 79 mph

Section 6 – Description of Closure

1. Describe in detail the reasons for closing the crossing:

The closure is part of the Barker Road Grade Separation Project that constructs a new grade separation at the existing at-grade crossing of BNSF railroad with Barker Road. Closing the Flora Road crossings will eliminate the risk of collusion between the 2,000 vehicles/day and 52 trains per day using the current at-grade crossing .

2. Describe the area currently served by the crossing, including the approximate number of homes or businesses that might be affected by the closure:

The area served by the Flora Road crossing is zoned Industrial. There is approx. 30 commercial/industrial businesses that may use Flora Road for their north access to Trent Ave (State Route 290).

3. How far is the nearest alternate access across the tracks from the crossing proposed for closure?

One mile east of Flora Road there is a crossing on Barker Road.

4. Describe the alternate access route(s), including distance and driving time:

The current crossing at Barker Road is an at-grade crossing, this has automatic gate arms and overhead cantilevert structures with bells and lights. The driving distance to use Barker Road instead of Flora Road is 2.6 miles, a 5 minute drive. However, the City is constructing a new Garland Avenue Road between Flora Road and Barker Road that is parallel to the BNSF tracks approx. 750ft south of the tracks, this will reduce the travel distance to 1.5 miles. Garland Ave is currently under construction and will be open to the public prior to closing the Flora Road crossing.

Section 7 – Illustration of Crossing

Attach a diagram, drawing, map or other illustration showing the location of the highway and railroad in the vicinity of the crossing. Include the parcels of private property located on both sides of the highway for a distance of 500' from the crossing and the name and mailing address of each property owner.

#1
SF Hillside, LLC
448 140th Ave. SE
Bellevue, WA 98006

#2
Michael Beer
4410 N. Flora Road
Spokane Valley, WA 99216

#3
Inland Empire Distribution System
3808 N. Sullivan Road #32
Spokane Valley, WA 99216

#4
Centennial Properties
PO Box 2160
Spokane, WA 99210

Section 8 – Waiver of Hearing by Respondent

Waiver of Hearing

The undersigned represents the Respondent in the petition to close a highway-railroad grade crossing.

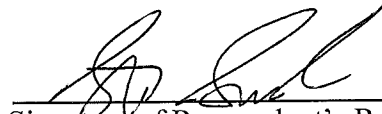
USDOT Crossing No.: 066245A

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

Dated at Seattle, Washington, on the 20th day of
March, 2020.

Stephen Semenick

Printed name of Respondent



Signature of Respondent's Representative

Manager Public Projects

Title

BNSF Railway Company

Name of Company

206-625-6152; stephen.semenick@bnsf.com

Phone number and e-mail address

2454 Occidental Ave S, Suite 1A, Seattle, WA 98134

Mailing address