



WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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Jun 21, 2023

**Yakima County**

Petitioner,

vs.

**Central Washington Railroad \ BNSF**

Respondent.

DOCKET NO. TR-

PETITION TO MODIFY A  
HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE  
CROSSING

USDOT CROSSING NO.: **098469L**

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 81.53.060. Modifications can include, but are not limited to, constructing median barriers, realigning a highway or railroad tracks, widening highways, constructing multiple tracks, or changes to crossing surfaces that alter the dimensions of an existing surface, the angle at which the tracks intersect a highway, or the vertical alignment of a crossing.

*Section 1 – Petitioner’s Information*

**Yakima County**

Petitioner

Signature

**128 N. 2nd Street, Courthouse, 4th Floor**

Mailing Address

**Yakima, WA 98901**

City, State and Zip Code

**Brett Sheffield**

Contact Person Name

**509-574-2312, brett.sheffield@co.yakima.wa.us**

Contact Phone Number and Email

*Section 2 – Respondent's Information*

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| <b>Central Washington Railroad \ BNSF</b>  |
| Respondent   |
| <b>111 University Pkwy, Suite 200 \ 2454 Occidental Ave. South, Suite 1A</b>       |
| Street Address   |
| <b>Yakima, WA 98901 \ Seattle, WA 98134-1451</b>                                   |
| City, State and Zip Code   |
|  |
| Mailing Address, if different than the street address                              |
| <b>Tim Marshall \ Alex Funderburg</b>  |
| Contact Person Name  |
| <b>509-453-9166, tmarshall@cbrn.com \ 206-625-6152, alex.funderburgjr@bnsf.com</b> |
| Contact Phone Number and Email   |

*Section 3 – Crossing Location*

|  |                                    |         |               |
|--|------------------------------------|---------|---------------|
| 1. Existing highway/roadway:           | <b>Keys Road</b>                   |         |               |
| 2. Existing railroad:                  | <b>Central Washington Railroad</b> |         |               |
| 3. GPS location:                       | <b>46.608230, -120.467039</b>      |         |               |
| 4. Railroad mile post (nearest tenth): | <b>2.95</b>                        |         |               |
| 5. City:                               | <b>Terrace Heights</b>             | County: | <b>Yakima</b> |

**Section 4 – Railroad Information**

1. Railroad company: **Central Washington Railroad**

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: **2**  
Authorized freight train speed: **25** Operated freight train speed: **10**

6. Average daily train traffic, passenger:   
Authorized passenger train speed:  Operated passenger train speed:

**Section 5 – Current Highway Traffic Information**

1. Name of roadway/highway: **Keys Road**

2. Roadway classification: **Minor Arterial**

3. Road authority: **Yakima County**

4. Average annual daily traffic (AADT): **3,400**

5. Number of lanes: **3**

6. Roadway speed: **35**

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

8. If so, trucks are what percent of total daily traffic? **11**

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

10. If so, how many school buses travel over the crossing each day? **8**

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

***Section 6 – Description of Public Safety Need***

Describe and support the public safety need for the proposed changes. (RCW 81.53.060)

The existing sidewalk ramps at the railroad crossing do not meet the current Americans with Disability Act (ADA) standards. Some of the slopes are greater than current ADA requirements and there are no detectable warning surfaces to warn disabled individuals of the upcoming train crossing.

***Section 7 – Proposed Crossing Modifications***

Provide a detailed description of the proposed modifications to the crossing. (RCW 81.53.060)

The sidewalks north and south of the rail crossings will be removed and replaced to ensure the slopes meet current ADA requirements. Detectable warning surfaces will be installed on all four approaches.

**Section 8 – Sight Distance**

1. Complete the following table, describing the sight distance for motorists when approaching the tracks from either direction after modification.

a. Approaching the crossing from  , the current approach provides an unobstructed view as follows: (North, South, East, West)

| Direction of sight (left or right) | Number of feet from proposed crossing | Provides an unobstructed view for how many feet |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Right                              | 300                                   | 260   |
| Right                              | 200                                   | 160   |
| Right                              | 100                                   | 110   |
| Right                              | 50                                    | 300   |
| Right                              | 25                                    | 200   |
| Left                               | 300                                   | 370   |
| Left                               | 200                                   | 280   |
| Left                               | 100                                   | 260   |
| Left                               | 50                                    | 600   |
| Left                               | 25                                    | 600   |

b. Approaching the crossing from  , the current approach provides an unobstructed view as follows: (Opposite direction-North, South, East, West)

| Direction of sight (left or right) | Number of feet from proposed crossing | Provides an unobstructed view for how many feet |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Right                              | 300                                   | 260   |
| Right                              | 200                                   | 160   |
| Right                              | 100                                   | 110   |
| Right                              | 50                                    | 300   |
| Right                              | 25                                    | 200   |
| Left                               | 300                                   | 370   |
| Left                               | 200                                   | 280   |
| Left                               | 100                                   | 260   |
| Left                               | 50                                    | 600   |
| Left                               | 25                                    | 600   |

2. Will the modified crossing provide a level approach measuring 25 feet from the center of the railway on both approaches to the crossing?

Yes  No

3. If not, state in feet the length of level grade from the center of the railway on both approaches to the crossing.

4. Will the modified crossing provide an approach grade of not more than five percent prior to the level grade?

Yes  No

5. If not, state the percentage of grade prior to the level grade and explain why the grade exceeds five percent.

***Section 9 – Illustration of Modified Crossing***

Attach a detailed diagram, construction plans, design drawings, map or other illustration showing the following:

- ◆ Proposed modifications.
- ◆ Layout of the railway and highway 500 feet adjacent to the crossing in all directions.
- ◆ Percent of grade.
- ◆ Obstructions of view identified in Section 9.
- ◆ Traffic control layout showing the existing and proposed signage and pavement markings.

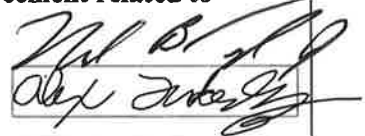
***Section 10 – Cost Apportionment***

If the commission approves the modifications to the crossing requested in this petition, it will apportion costs in accordance with the applicable statutes. (RCW 81.53.130).

**In the alternative, 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 11 – Respondent's Review**

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

USDOT Crossing No.:

We have investigated the conditions at the crossing proposed for modification. We are satisfied the conditions are the same as described by the Petitioner in this docket. We agree to the crossing modifications and consent to a decision by the UTC without a hearing.

May

Dated at  , Washington, on the  day of  2023.

Printed name of Respondent

Signature of Respondent's Representative

*Nicholas B Temple Jr*  
*NB Temple Jr*

Title

Phone Number

Email

Mailing address

**Checklist prior to submitting petition:**

- ✓ Ensure all petition fields are completed.
- ✓ Ensure parties sign Section 10 regarding any Cost Apportionment agreement, if applicable.
- ✓ Obtain signature on Respondent's Review (Section 11). *If the respondent fails to sign this section, advise UTC staff upon submission.*
- ✓ Attach copies of:
  - Illustration of crossing (described in Section 9).
  - Any other relevant documents to support the petition, including but not limited to support of public need, project documents, etc.

**Submitting the petition:** To officially file the petition, send the petition form and supporting documents to [records@utc.wa.gov](mailto:records@utc.wa.gov).

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**Questions:** For questions, please contact:

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|---|---|
| <p><b>Mike Turcott</b><br/>Transportation Planning Specialist<br/><a href="mailto:mike.turcott@utc.wa.gov">mike.turcott@utc.wa.gov</a><br/>(360) 764-0572</p> | <p><b>Tyler Whitcomb</b><br/>Transportation Planning Specialist<br/><a href="mailto:tyler.whitcomb@utc.wa.gov">tyler.whitcomb@utc.wa.gov</a><br/>(564) 669-0943</p> |
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