

pgl.

January 12, 1995
WUTC.

P.O. Box 47250

Olympia, WA.

98504-7250

Dear Commissioners of WUTC,

Upon reading the ^{RECEIVED} enclosed article in the ^{95 JAN 13 48:44} little Consumer Guide newspaper I was wondering, could this be true? Are you ^{STATE OF WASH. UTIL. & TR. COMMS.} really going to increase the speed limits proposed in this article? I can't believe it!!

There are so very many areas that should be give some serious consideration & brain power.

1. Jobs would increase primarily, because, the higher rate of speed generated by faster moving trains (need for more building of subactual rails for safety). (b) Routes would have to be considered for safety reasons. (c) Regulations would have to change, because, you have state as well as railroad officials to contend with - two different organizations meetings - paperwork, office help. Etc, Etc.
2. At what cost are we talking about?? would our money generated by tourism increase, or, substantially decrease? Must tourists take the trains to see the views of the countryside? Will you put on more & faster trains for fast commuters??

Pg. 2

This article enclosed ~~it~~, also, states that the first portion of the proposed route, between, Seattle & Vancouver B.C., is scheduled to begin rail service this year? → That is if the Commission grants the increase in train speeds.

While I realize that there is competition, between, air travel & highway travel & believe we should be prepared. Enclosed is a recent photo from the Everett Herald newspaper, of a train derailment.

Please, consider people's safety first
before you move on with this new project!

Thank you for your time & effort, & would be very interested to know, as well as all the other citizens are —
Could this be true??

Respectfully,
Joretta Anderson
9, Everett Post Office
General Delivery
Everett, WA. 98201

State Commission to Hold Hearings on Proposal to Increase Train Speeds

A plan to increase train speeds through some communities between Seattle and Vancouver B.C. will be the subject of public hearings by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) on Jan. 19 and 20 in Marysville.

The WUTC, which must approve the higher train-speed limits, has scheduled public hearings at 9 a.m. Jan. 19 and 20 in the City Council Chambers of the Public Safety Building, 1635

Grove Street, Marysville.

Representatives from the Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT), the National Railroad Passenger Corp. (Amtrak) and Burlington Northern Railroad Co. (BN) will make a presentation on their joint proposal to increase speed limits for passenger and freight trains to accommodate a high-speed rail system. Marysville city officials are also expected to testify.

See Train Speed, P-13

TRAIN SPEED

From P-1

Although the exact time has not been set, the presiding administrative law judge will make an announcement at 9 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 19 when testimony will be taken from members of the public.

The three-member commission will make a decision on whether

to approve the proposed train-speed changes later this winter. Cities with a population of 50,000 or more, such as Seattle, Tacoma, Everett and Bellingham, can formally approve higher train speeds themselves. However, the WUTC regulates the speed limit trains can travel through smaller towns along the track route, including Edmonds, Ferndale,

Blaine, Stanwood, Marysville, Burlington and Mount Vernon.

The joint request to increase the speed of passenger trains is part of a plan to develop a rapid-rail corridor that would eventually stretch from Eugene, Ore. to Vancouver B.C. The first portion of the route, between Seattle and Vancouver B.C., is scheduled to begin rail service this year if the Commission grants the increase in train speeds. State and railroad officials maintain that to compete effectively with highway and air travel, higher train speeds are necessary to decrease the run to less than four hours.

The proposed changes would raise the maximum passenger train speed to 30, 50 and 79 miles per hour in different parts of Marysville. The speed limit is 25 miles per hour now. In addition, officials are seeking permission to increase freight train speeds from the current 25 miles per hour to 50 miles per hour.

If members of the public would like to comment on the proposal but are unable to attend the scheduled hearings, they may write the secretary of the WUTC at P.O. Box 47250, Olympia, Wash., 98504-7250. Written comments must be received prior to the Jan. 19 hearing date.

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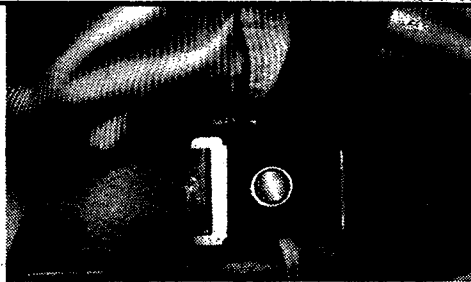
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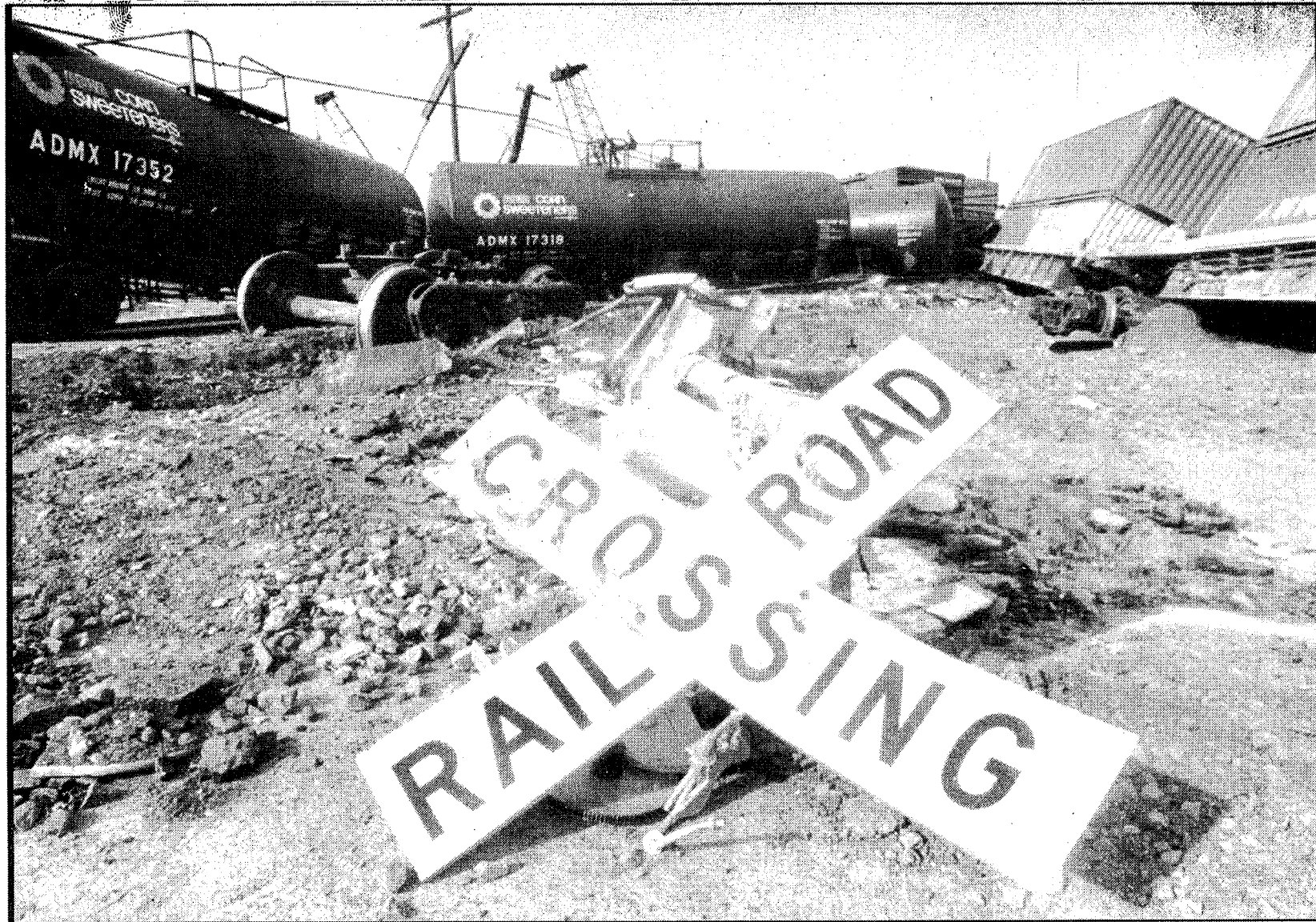
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Washington Traffic Safety Commission





Sign falls out of date

Associated Press
A crossing sign sits in front of a train derailment Tuesday in Belen, N.M. Officials say there were no injuries when 11 cars left the tracks in the early morning accident.

David Clinton
6703 S. 122nd St.
Seattle WA 98178

WUTC
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia WA 98504-7250

1-13-95

To Whom it may concern

I support increasing train speeds through Marysville. The state has already supplied highway users with a fast ride through Marysville via I-5. In the 1960's government funded freeway projects and arbitrary municipal speed restrictions helped put privately run rail service at a severe competitive disadvantage. Lifting these speed restrictions would make rail a more viable alternative to our increasingly congested and dangerous highways. If grade crossings are protected with barriers, or replaced with grade seperated crossings, then there is no good reason to shackle rail service with arbitrary speed restrictions.

Also, may I strongly suggest that in urban areas, rail lines be fenced between road crossings to deter pedestrians from trespassing on railway tracks.

Sincerely
Dave Clinton

STATE OF WASH.
UTIL. & TRANSP
COMMISSION

95 JAN 17 AM 8:38

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RECEIVED

Jan. 13, 1995

'95 JAN 17 10 54 AM

Stamwood W.V.

STATE OF WASH.
UTIL. & TRANSP.
COMMISSION

Dear Secretary of WUTC

As a citizen of Stamwood I am very concerned about the high speed train. This train goes right thru downtown Stamwood, Arlington, Marysville & Mt. Vernon. If a accident or derailment happens it will wipe out the downtown in these small towns - and it will happen - with the record B.71. has had in the past year - it will happen! For every mile you increase the speed you increase the death toll - we are not ready for that - I'm hoping you can find another way & that Mr. Swift won't have to make so many fast trips now that he has retired & has a new job - I'm hoping all our comments are not ignored.

Margie Adgeall
Box 313

Stamwood 98292