

TR-150309



**Washington State  
Department of Transportation**

Lynn Peterson  
Secretary of Transportation

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July 21, 2015

Kathy Hunter  
Deputy Assistant Director of Transportation Safety  
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
PO Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Subject: SR 432 Exempt Sign Request

Dear Ms. Hunter:

On February 24, 2015, the Washington State Department of Transportation filed a petition with the Commission seeking approval to install Exempt signs at the SR 432 railroad grade crossing in Longview, Washington. The petition was docketed as TR-150309.

In April 2015, following UTC staff investigation of the petition, you advised WSDOT of several action items that needed to be accomplished before UTC staff could support the proposal. These items are listed below with a statement of status.

**WSDOT Items**

Repainting the railroad pavement markings on the approaches to the crossing.

- WSDOT will re-paint the pavement markings according to regularly scheduled maintenance cycle - projected to be complete by the end of September 2015.

Removing the yellow private sign to the right of the RR signal on the westbound approach.

- Removed on June 30, 2015

Assessing the need to post a lower advisory speed for the approaches to the crossing.

- WSDOT traffic engineers have considered the need for an advisory speed for the approaches to the crossing, and have concluded that an advisory speed would not be effective at this location with respect to the issue we are addressing.

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Providing UTC with an explanation of why impact attenuators are installed at the ends of the concrete barrier sections that divide SR 432.

- These are standard WSDOT terminal devices required by state design standards. See WSDOT design manual Chapter 1620 for more information - <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/publications/manuals/fulltext/M22-01/1620.pdf>.

#### **Railroad Items**

Ensure that the gates properly fit within the wind guards when in the upright position.

- BNSF reported that this was completed on May 27, 2015

Cleaning the railroad signal flasher heads.

- BNSF reported that this was completed on May 27, 2015

Installing No Trespassing Signs in the NE Quadrant of the crossing.

- BNSF reported that this was completed on May 27, 2015

Clearing the vegetation in the SW quadrant of the crossing at least 100 feet back from the crossing to improve sight distance.

- BNSF reported that this was completed on July 17, 2015.

As specified above, WSDOT has successfully worked with BNSF and UTC staff to accomplish these actions, or have a plan in place to complete them. Our goal is to have this Exemption in place prior to the beginning of the next school year.

Please let me know if you have any questions as UTC staff complete their investigation of this petition.

Sincerely,



Ahmer Nizam  
Utilities and Railroad Manager

cc: Richard Wagner, BNSF Public Projects Manager  
David Wolter, LVSW General Manager  
Chad Hancock, WSDOT  
Dave Bellinger, WSDOT