

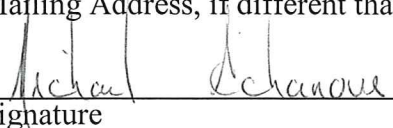
WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

<p>CITY OF PALOUSE,  <hr/>         Petitioner,</p> <p>vs.</p> <p>WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF          TRANSPORTATION, and</p> <p>WASHINGTON AND IDAHO RAILWAY,          INC.,  <hr/>         Respondents</p>	<p>DOCKET NO. TR-</p> <p>PETITION TO RECONSTRUCT A          HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE          CROSSING AND INSTALL          SIDEWALKS AT MARY STREET AT          WHITMAN STREET IN PALOUSE</p> <p>USDOT NO.: 857868U</p>
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The Petitioner asks the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission to approve construction or reconstruction of a highway-rail grade crossing.

- Construction       Reconstruction

*Section 1 – Petitioner’s Information*

<p>City of Palouse  <hr/>         Petitioner</p>
<p>PO Box 248  <hr/>         Street Address</p>
<p>Palouse, WA 99161  <hr/>         City, State and Zip Code</p>
<p>_____          Mailing Address, if different than the street address</p>
<p>  <hr/>         Signature</p>
<p>Mayor Michael Echanove  <hr/>         Contact Person Name</p>
<p>Kyle Dixon (509) 878-1811 <a href="mailto:cityclerk@palouse.com">cityclerk@palouse.com</a> (Kyle Dixon)  <hr/>         Contact Name, Phone Number, and E-mail Address</p>

*Section 2 – Respondents' Information*

<u>Washington State Department of Transportation - State Rail Office – Freight Systems Division</u> Respondent #1
<u>PO Box 47407</u> Street Address
<u>Olympia, WA 98504-7407</u> City, State and Zip Code
<u>WSDOT Eastern Region/ 2714 N. Mayfair Street, Spokane, WA 989207-2050</u> Mailing Address, if different than the street address
<u>Bob Westby</u> Contact Person Name
<u>(509) 324-6086 <a href="mailto:WestbyB@wsdot.wa.gov">WestbyB@wsdot.wa.gov</a></u> Contact Phone Number and E-mail Address

<u>Washington &amp; Idaho Railway, Inc. (WIR)</u> Respondent #2
<u>417 S. Park Ave.</u> Street Address
<u>Rosalia, WA 99170</u> City, State and Zip Code
<u>Mailing Address, if different than the street address</u>
<u>Brandon Stuller, Operations Manager</u> Contact Person Name
<u>(509) 202-2102 <a href="mailto:b.stuller@wirailway.com">b.stuller@wirailway.com</a></u> Contact Phone Number and E-mail Address

**Section 3 – Proposed or Existing Crossing Location**

1. Existing highway/roadway N. Mary Street at W. Whitman Street Intersection

2. Existing railroad WSDOT/WIR

3. Location of proposed crossing:  
Located in the \_\_\_ 1/4 of the \_\_\_ 1/4 of Sec. \_\_\_ , Twp. \_\_\_ , Range \_\_\_ W.M.

4. GPS location 46.9104390, -117.0768280

5. Railroad mile post (nearest tenth) 0.79

6. City Palouse County Whitman

**Section 4 – Proposed or Existing Crossing Information**

1. Railroad company WSDOT (owner) / WIR (operator)

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 per week  
Authorized freight train speed 10 Operated freight train speed 10

6. Average daily train traffic, passenger N/A  
Authorized passenger train speed \_\_\_\_\_ Operated passenger train speed \_\_\_\_\_

7. Will the proposed crossing eliminate the need for one or more existing crossings?  
Yes  No

8. If so, state the distance and direction from the proposed crossing.  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. Does the petitioner propose to close any existing crossings?  
Yes  No

**Section 5 – Temporary Crossing**

1. Is the crossing proposed to be temporary?      Yes       No

2. If so, describe the purpose of the crossing and the estimated time it will be needed

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Will the petitioner remove the crossing at completion of the activity requiring the temporary crossing?      Yes       No

Approximate date of removal \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 6 – Current Highway Traffic Information**

1. Name of roadway/highway Mary Street at West Whitman Street

2. Roadway classification Local collector

3. Road authority City of Palouse

4. Average annual daily traffic (AADT) 10

5. Number of lanes 2

6. Roadway speed 25

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

8. If so, trucks are what percent of total daily traffic? 5%

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? \_\_\_\_\_

11. Describe any changes to the information in 1 through 7, above, expected within ten years:

\_\_\_\_\_

*Section 7 – Alternatives to the Proposal*

1. Does a safer location for a crossing exist within a reasonable distance of the proposed location?

Yes  No

2. If a safer location exists, explain why the crossing should not be located at that site.

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3. Are there any hillsides, embankments, buildings, trees, railroad loading platforms or other barriers in the vicinity which may obstruct a motorist's view of the crossing?

Yes  No

4. If a barrier exists, describe:

- ◆ Whether petitioner can relocate the crossing to avoid the obstruction and if not, why not.
- ◆ How the barrier can be removed.
- ◆ How the petitioner or another party can mitigate the hazard caused by the barrier.

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5. Is it feasible to construct an over-crossing or under-crossing at the proposed location as an alternative to an at-grade crossing?

Yes  No

6. If an over-crossing or under-crossing is not feasible, explain why.

N/A

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7. Does the railway line, at any point in the vicinity of the proposed crossing, pass over a fill area or trestle or through a cut where it is feasible to construct an over-crossing or an under-crossing, even though it may be necessary to relocate a portion of the roadway to reach that point?

Yes  No

8. If such a location exists, state:

- ◆ The distance and direction from the proposed crossing.
- ◆ The approximate cost of construction.
- ◆ Any reasons that exist to prevent locating the crossing at this site.

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9. Is there an existing public or private crossing in the vicinity of the proposed crossing?

Yes  No

10. If a crossing exists, state:

- ◆ The distance and direction from the proposed crossing.
- ◆ Whether it is feasible to divert traffic from the proposed to the existing crossing.

Mill Street – USDOT 857867M

Bridge Street/SR-27 - USDOT 857869B

Rail runs down middle of W. Whitman Street – not possible to divert traffic.

**Section 8 – Sight Distance**

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

a. Approaching the crossing from SOUTH, 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	35
Right	200	
Right	100	
Right	50	
Right	25	
Left	300	35
Left	200	
Left	100	
Left	50	
Left	25	

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	
Right	200	
Right	100	
Right	50	
Right	25	
Left	300	
Left	200	
Left	100	
Left	50	
Left	25	

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

Yes X 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 new crossing provide an approach grade of not more than five percent prior to the level grade?

Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

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

1.13% to 0.56% grade along railroad tracks on W. Whitman Street.

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***Section 9 – Illustration of Proposed Crossing Configuration***

Attach a detailed diagram, drawing, map or other illustration showing the following:

- ◆ The vicinity of the proposed crossing.
- ◆ Layout of the railway and highway 500 feet adjacent to the crossing in all directions.
- ◆ Percent of grade.
- ◆ Obstructions of view as described in Section 7 or identified in Section 8.
- ◆ Traffic control layout showing the location of the existing and proposed signage.

***Section 10 – Sidewalks***

1. Provide the following information:

- a. Provide a description of the type of sidewalks proposed.
- b. Describe who will maintain the sidewalks.
- c. Attach a proposed diagram or design of the crossing including the sidewalks.

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**Section 11 – Proposed Warning Signals or Devices**

1. Explain in detail the number and type of automatic signals or other warning devices planned at the proposed crossing, including a cost estimate for each. If requesting pre-emption include the type of train detection circuitry, sequencing and advanced preemption time, justification for the changes and its effects on current warning devices and warning times for drivers.

No active warning devices will be installed.

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2. Provide an estimate for maintaining the signals for 12 months. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Is the petitioner prepared to pay to the respondent railroad company its share of installing the warning devices as provided by law?

Yes

No

**Section 12 – Additional Information**

Provide any additional information supporting the proposal, including information such as the public benefits that would be derived from constructing a new crossing as proposed or modifying an existing crossing. Provide project specific information.

This project involves the reconstruction of the road and tracks on Whitman Street, including replacement of the road bed and installation of new sidewalks, curbing, lighting, and landscaping between Mill and Bridge Streets. The railroad tracks, which run down the center of Whitman Street, will be replaced and distinct travel lanes will be established on either side of the tracks. Curbing and crosswalks will be installed to provide pedestrians with safer travel options.

The configuration of the Mary Street crossing is unusual in that it ends at Whitman Street and forms a “T” intersection. Currently there are no warning devices at the Mary Street crossing. The project involves installation of MUTCD-compliant crossbucks, an advance warning sign, a stop sign, an ENS sign, and retroreflective tape on the sign posts, as well as pavement markings.

*Section 13 – Waiver of Hearing by Respondent*

**Waiver of Hearing**


The undersigned represents the Respondent in the petition to construct or reconstruct a highway-railroad grade crossing.

USDOT Crossing No.: 857868U

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

Dated at Spokane, Washington, on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of February, 20 17.

Bob Westby  
Printed name of Respondent

  
Signature of Respondent's Representative

Rail, Freight and Ports Division  
Title

Washington State Department of Transportation  
Name of Company

(509) 324-6086  
Phone number and e-mail address

2714 N. Mayfair St.

Spokane, WA 99207-2050  
Mailing address

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Dated at Spokane, Washington, on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of February, 20 17.

Brandon Stuller  
Printed name of Respondent

Brandon Stuller  
Signature of Respondent's Representative

Operations Manager  
Title

Washington & Idaho Railway, Inc.  
Name of Company

(509) 202-2102  
Phone number and e-mail address

417 South Park Ave.

Rosalia, WA 99170  
Mailing address