

March 6, 2001

Carole Washburn, Executive Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW
PO Box 47250
Olympia, WA, 98504-7250

RE: Docket TR-010194: BNSF Railroad Petition to Close 156th Street NE – Supplemental Comments

Dear Executive Secretary Washburn:

Because the deadline set for comment regarding the proposed closure is found to be synthetic (There has been no formal SEPA Threshold Determination or Public Notice), the following supplemental comments are offered in addition to those sent March 5th, 2001, regarding the petition to close 156th Street NE:

While the subject planning area is within the Marysville Urban Growth Area (UGA), it still lies within the planning/zoning jurisdiction of Snohomish County. Snohomish County and Marysville are currently cooperating on a Growth Management Subarea Plan for the area establishing land use, transportation, utility and open space corridors for the next 20 years. This subarea plan, once completed and adopted, will be an amendment to the Growth Management General Policy Plan for the County. Therefore, it is necessary to preserve the existing roadway options for this planning process. It is highly unlikely that Burlington Northern will ever grant another at -grade crossing and has not demonstrated any willingness to fund an overpass. Premature closure of this roadway would introduce additional stress on the capabilities of the area to accommodate urban densities which have been planned for since 1995. Mitigation of this impact would be for Burlington Northern to commit to another at grade crossing in the planning area, or to agree to fund an overpass for 156th NE Corridor.

Snohomish County reiterates recognition of the need for a more efficient high speed rail system. However, the proponent is advised to make consideration of the immediate, short-term, and long term impacts to the area's transportation system, as a result of the proposed closure, and address possible solutions as a part of the petition and the SEPA analysis. The County will continue to give serious consideration to the proposal and endeavor to reach a resolution satisfactory to all affected parties.

Respectfully,

David Evans, Engineering Group Supervisor I, Land Use/Records
Transportation and Environmental Services Division

cc: Gary Weikel, Executive Director, County Executive's Office
Councilman Mike Ashley, Snohomish County Council
Loren Sand, County Road Engineer, Public Works
Peter Hahn, Public Works Director
Tina Rogers, TES Director, Public Works
Jim Fowler, Land Use/Records Supervisor III, Public Works
Marc Krandel, Snohomish County Parks
Mary Lynne Evans, Snohomish County Planning & Development Services
Jerry Jackson, Marysville Fire District
Marlene Rosenbach, Lakewood School District
Wm. Stoops, Deputy Sheriff
Owen Carter, Engineer, City of Marysville
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