



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250
(360) 664-1160 • TTY (360) 586-8203

December 19, 2008

Michael Rowswell, Special Initiatives Manager
Washington State Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 47407
Olympia, WA 98504-7407

Stan Patterson, General Manager
Washington and Idaho Railway Company
P.O. Box 154
Marshall, WA 99020-0154

RE: TR-082212 Petition from the City of Pullman

Dear Mr. Rowswell and Mr. Patterson:

On December 11, 2008, the City of Pullman filed a petition with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (commission) seeking approval to establish a new at-grade pedestrian-only rail grade crossing at Johnson Avenue in the city of Pullman. The commission assigned docket TR-082212 to this petition.

Commission records indicate that Washington State Department of Transportation owns this track and the Washington and Idaho Railway Company operates it track. Therefore, we are providing both of you notice of the petition filed by the city of Pullman.

Please review the attached petition and respond by January 8, 2009. Your response options include:

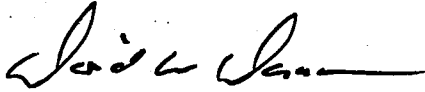
- Support the petition – Complete the Respondent's Waiver of Hearing form, which serves as your consent for the commission to issue an order without further notice or hearing.
- Do not support the petition – Reply with your position and include whether you believe a hearing is necessary to resolve the issues. You may also suggest other courses of action, such as further discussion prior to going to hearing.

Mike Rowswell
Stan Patterson
December 19, 2008
Page 2

If you do not respond within 20 days of the date of this letter, we will assume you do not support the petition and will set the matter for hearing. You will be required to attend the hearing and respond to the commission.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Hunter at (360) 664-1257 or at khunter@utc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

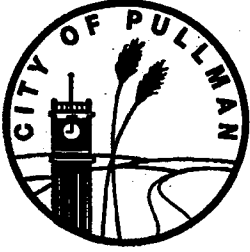


David W. Danner
Director and Executive Secretary

Enclosure

cc: Dale Rogers, City of Pullman

TR-082212



CITY OF PULLMAN

Public Works and Planning Departments

325 S.E. Paradise Street, Pullman, WA 99163
(509) 338-3220 or (509) 338-3213 Fax (509) 338-3282
www.pullman-wa.gov

December 9, 2008

Kathy Hunter
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW
PO Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

2008 DEC 11 AM 8:10
RECEIVED
WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Re: Petition for railroad crossing on Johnson Avenue in Pullman, Washington

Dear Kathy,

The first of two petitions we have discussed is attached for consideration by the commission. We are sending the same materials to the respondents in the hope they will file waivers of hearing. Please let me know when you plan your site visit. I would be pleased to join you and look forward to meeting in person. Thank you for your assistance through the process.

Sincerely,

Dale R. Rogers
Senior Engineering Technician

drr/drr
encl.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

)	DOCKET NO. TR-082212
)	
City of Pullman)	
_____)	PETITION TO OPEN A
Petitioner,)	PEDESTRIAN RAIL CROSSING
)	
vs.)	
Washington State Department of)	
Transportation – Rail and Marine Division)	
_____)	
Respondent)	
)	
Washington and Idaho Railway Company)	
_____)	
Respondent)	
.....)	

The Petitioner asks the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission approve construction of an at grade pedestrian railroad crossing as described in this petition.

Section 1 – Petitioner’s Information

City of Pullman _____ Petitioner
325 SE Paradise Street _____ Street Address Pullman, WA 99163 _____ City, State and Zip Code
_____ Mailing Address, if different than the street address Dale Rogers
_____ Contact Person Name 509 338 3214 509 339 5012 cell dale.rogers@pullman-wa.gov
_____ Contact Phone Number and E-mail Address

Section 2 – Respondent's Information

Washington State Department of Transportation – Rail and Marine Division Respondent
PO Box 47407 Street Address
Olympia, WA 98504-7407 City, State and Zip Code
Mailing Address, if different than the street address
Michael E. Rowswell, Special Initiatives Manager Contact Person Name
360 705 7930 360 280 4540 cell rowswem@wsdot.wa.gov Contact Phone Number and E-mail Address

Washington and Idaho Railway Company Respondent
PO Box 154 Street Address
Marshal, WA 99020 City, State and Zip Code
Mailing Address, if different than the street address
Stan Patterson, General Manager Contact Person Name
208 290 8148 Contact Phone Number and E-mail Address

Section 3 – Crossing Location

1. Existing railroad Northern Pacific Railway
2. Located in the NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Sec. 8, Twp. 14N, Range 45 EWM
3. GPS location, if known _____
4. Railroad mile post (nearest tenth) 4068+34.6
5. City Pullman County Whitman

Section 4 – Rail Crossing Traffic

1. Name of railroad(s) operating at the proposed crossing
Washington and Idaho Railway Company
2. Type of railroad at crossing Common Carrier Logging Industrial
 Passenger Excursion
3. Type of tracks at the proposed crossing Main Line Siding or Spur
4. Number of tracks at the proposed crossing 1
5. Average daily train traffic, freight less than two per week, average
Authorized freight train speed 10mph Operated freight train speed 6mph
6. Average daily train traffic, passenger None
Authorized passenger train speed _____ Operated passenger train speed _____
7. Will the proposed crossing eliminate the need for one or more existing crossings?
Yes _____ No X
8. If so, state the distance and direction from the proposed crossing.
9. Does the petitioner propose to close any existing crossings?
Yes _____ No No

Section 5 – Current Highway Traffic Information

1. Name of roadway/highway	<u>Johnson Avenue Path</u>
2. Roadway classification	<u>Bike/Pedestrian Path</u>
3. Road authority	<u>City of Pullman</u>
4. Average annual daily traffic (AADT)	<u>N/A</u>
5. Number of lanes	<u>10' wide paved path</u>
6. Roadway speed	<u>N/A</u>
7. Is the crossing part of an established truck route?	Yes _____ No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8. If so, trucks are what percent of total daily traffic?	_____
9. Is the crossing part of an established school bus route?	Yes _____ No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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:	<u>None</u>

Section 6 – Description of Proposed Crossing

<p>1. Describe in detail the reasons for constructing a crossing at this location.</p> <p>The proposed crossing will allow extension of the recreational trail along the South Fork Palouse River; provide pedestrian access to a low cost housing development at the south edge of town; and provide future access between Washington State University and the business and medical communities on Bishop Boulevard. The south terminus of the path will connect to the future South Pullman Bypass Highway that includes dedicated bike/pedestrian facilities. Project funding is provided by a local revenue bond issue passed with a 72.34% majority.</p> <p>The proposed crossing site was historically a rail and river crossing point as evidenced by the attached N.P. Ry map. The road approach to the crossing still exists and is barricaded at the tracks. The rail crossing and abandoned Genesee Branch of the N.P. Ry. are regularly used by recreational hikers and cyclists and pedestrian commuters. Our proposal will formalize the crossing and allow installation of appropriate safety measures.</p>
<p>2. How far is the nearest alternate access across the tracks from the proposed crossing?</p>

There is no pedestrian access at this time to the low cost housing on Johnson Avenue or to the proposed river bridge to Bishop Boulevard. Johnson Avenue is 24 feet wide with little to no shoulders. Widening Johnson Avenue for bike/pedestrian facilities would require extensive excavation of a rock bluff and filling of regulated wetlands. The cost of such construction would be prohibitive even if environmental permits could be obtained. The existing rail crossing of Johnson Road at Old Moscow Highway is skewed at a severe 29 degree angle, a condition that would be worsened by widening the crossing, and is a less desirable location for a pedestrian crossing due to the skew.

Construction of the path on the abandoned rail bed will be far less costly and will avoid the environmental impacts. There is no alternative access to the east river shoreline and the east bridgehead.

3. Describe the alternate access route, including distance and driving time.

Section 7 – Illustration of Crossing

Attach a diagram, drawing, map or other illustration showing the location of the railroad and the proposed location of the crossing. Also include proposed warning signals and signage. Include the parcels of private property located on both sides of the proposed crossing for a distance of 500' from the crossing and the name and mailing address of each property owner.

Property ownership is provided for the east side of the tracks only. The west side of the tracks is separated from private property by the South Fork Palouse River and Bishop Boulevard, a minimum distance of 200'.

List of attachments:

State map.

Project location map.

Project plan.

A portion of NPRR route map.

Five sheets of photographs.

List of property owners.

Section 8 – Waiver of Hearing by Respondent

Waiver of Hearing

The undersigned represents the Respondent in this matter.

Docket Number: Johnson Avenue Path crossing in Pullman, Washington.

We have investigated the conditions at the crossing. We are satisfied the conditions are the same as described by the Petitioner in this docket. We do not oppose the proposed at grade pedestrian crossing and consent to a decision by the commission without a hearing.

Dated at _____, Washington, on the _____ day of _____, 20 ____.

Printed name of Respondent

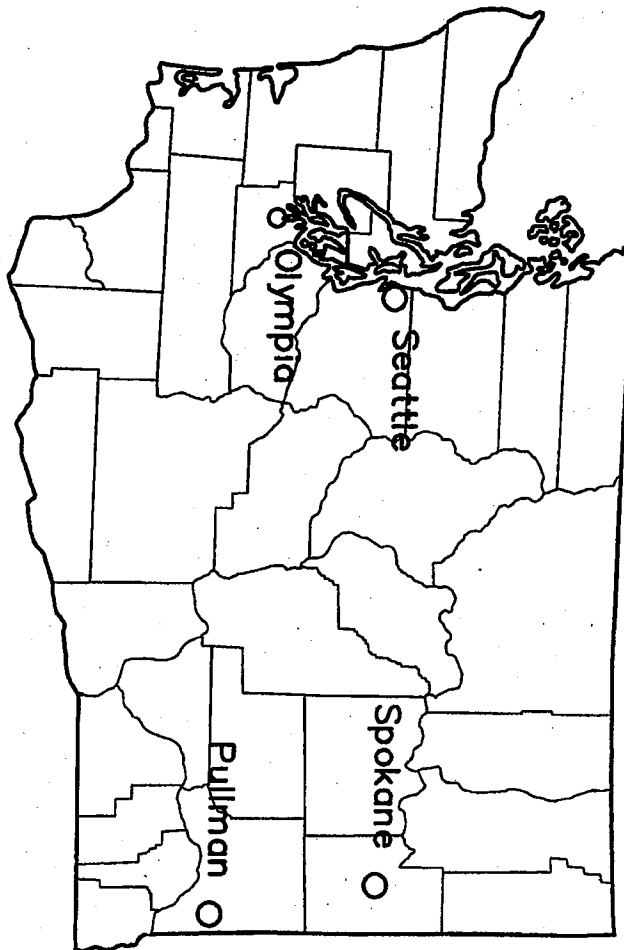
Signature of Respondent's Representative

Title

Phone number and e-mail address

Mailing address

STATE OF WASHINGTON



AutoCAD:

Scale: NTS

Dwn: dr

Date: 06/08

CITY OF PULLMAN,
WASHINGTON

ENGINEERING DIVISION

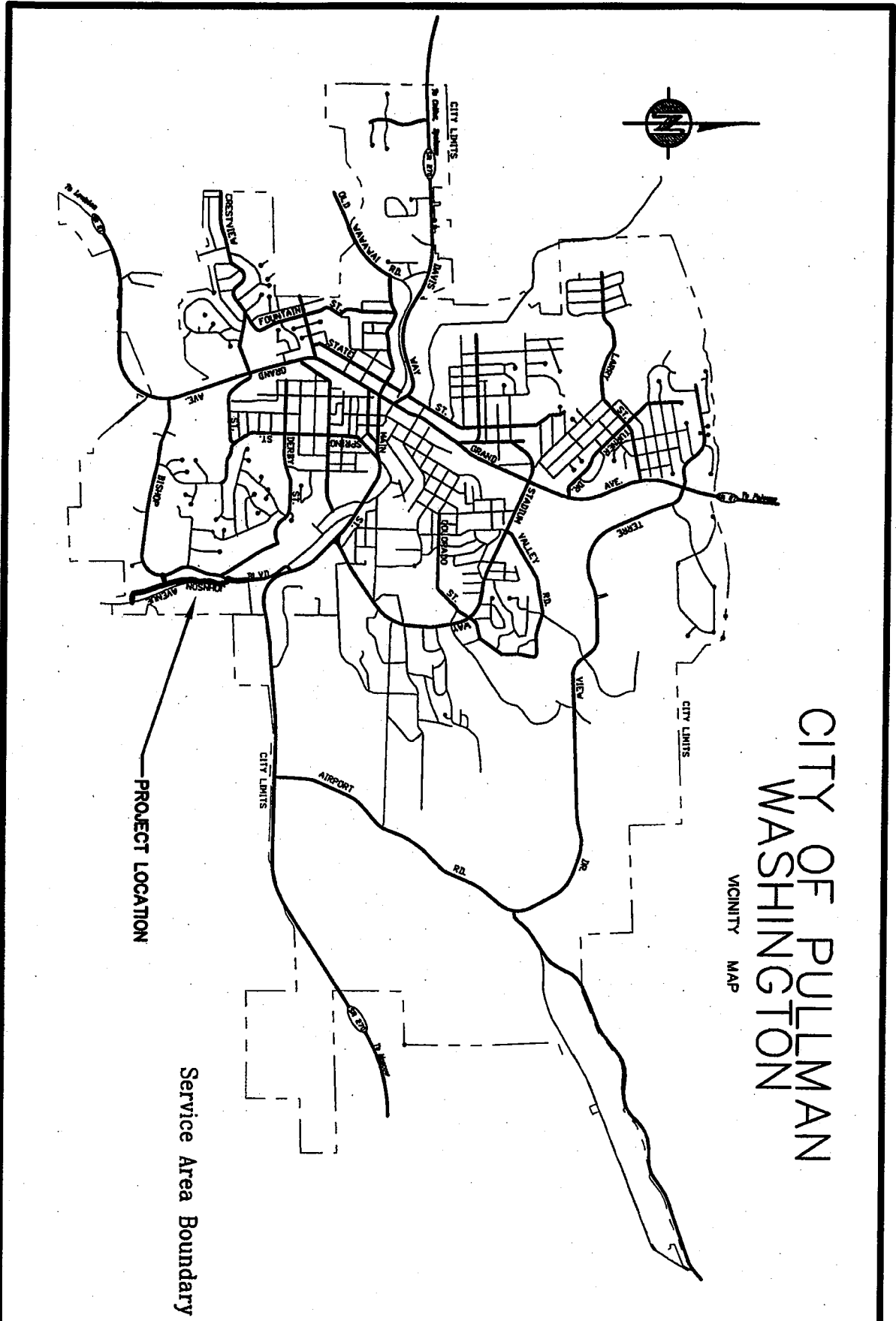


Johnson Avenue Path

SHEET

1

OF



CITY OF PULLMAN
WASHINGTON
VICINITY MAP

PROJECT LOCATION

Service Area Boundary

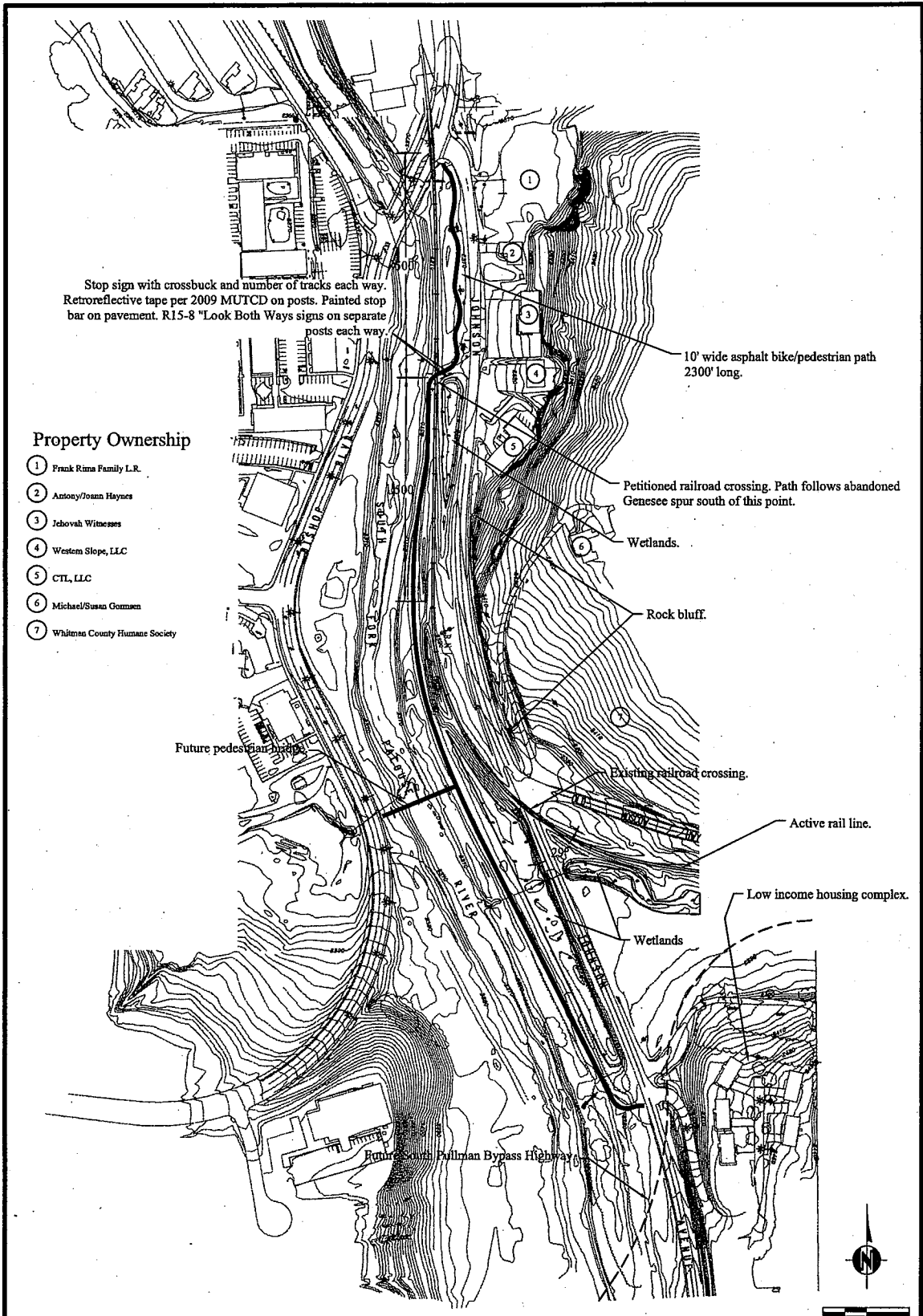
AutoCAD:

S1	1	S1
XXX		

Johnson Avenue Path

CITY OF PULLMAN,
WASHINGTON
ENGINEERING DIVISION

Scale: NTS
Dwn: dr
CONTRACT NO.
Date: 04/04

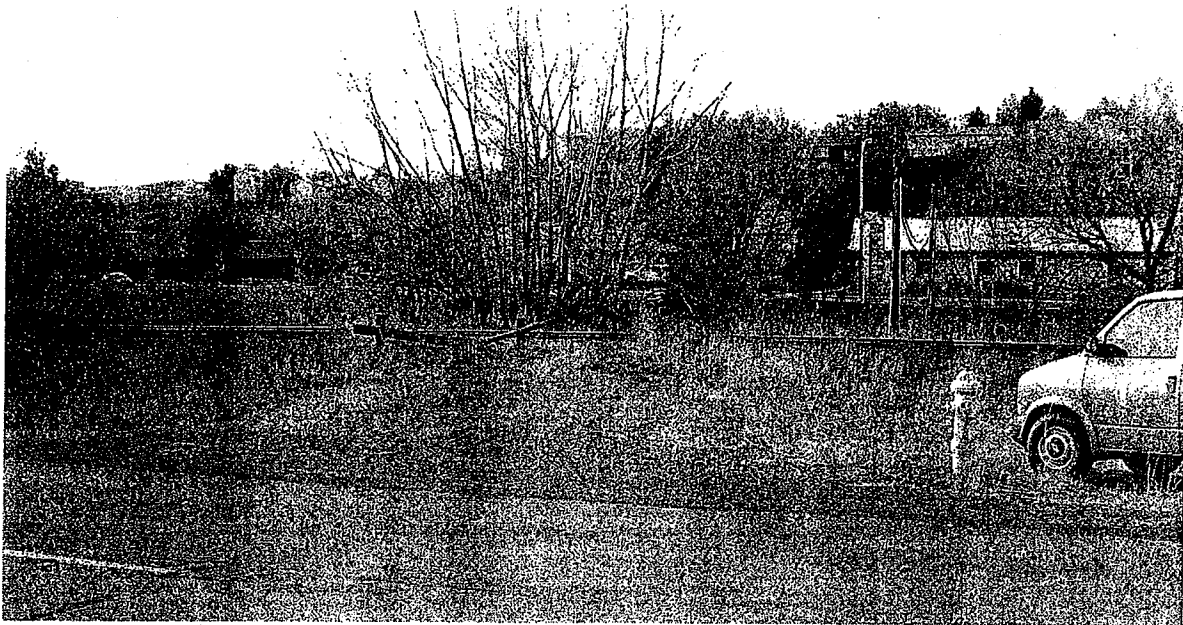


Property Ownership

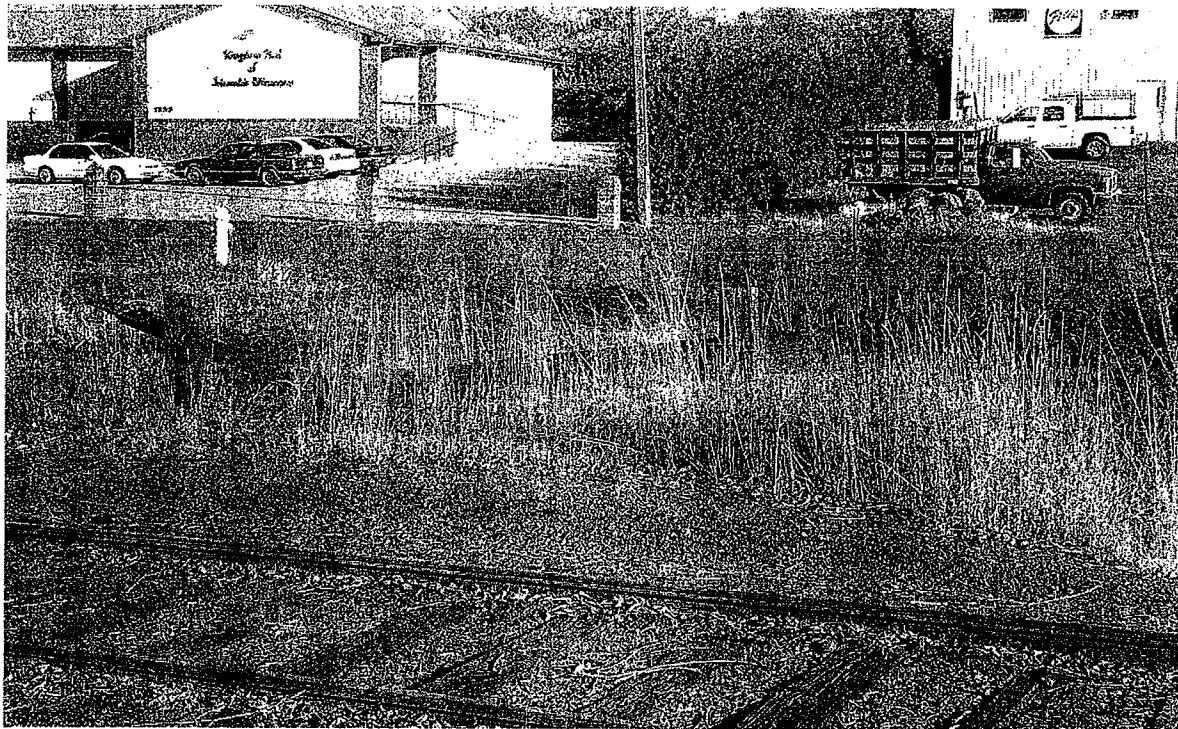
- ① Frank Rima Family L.R.
- ② Antony/Josann Haynes
- ③ Jehovah Witnesses
- ④ Western Slope, LLC
- ⑤ CTL, LLC
- ⑥ Michael/Susan Gommen
- ⑦ Whitman County Humane Society



<p>CITY OF PULLMAN, WASHINGTON 225 SE Paradise Street Pullman, WA 99163 Phone: 509-338-3215 Fax: 509-334-8761 Email:</p>	<p>JOHNSON AVENUE PATH</p>	<p>Acad E2004 Dwg: Scale: 1" = 200'</p>
		<p>Drawn: _____ Date: Dec 2008</p>
		<p>Checked: _____ Date:</p>
		<p>Rev's:</p>



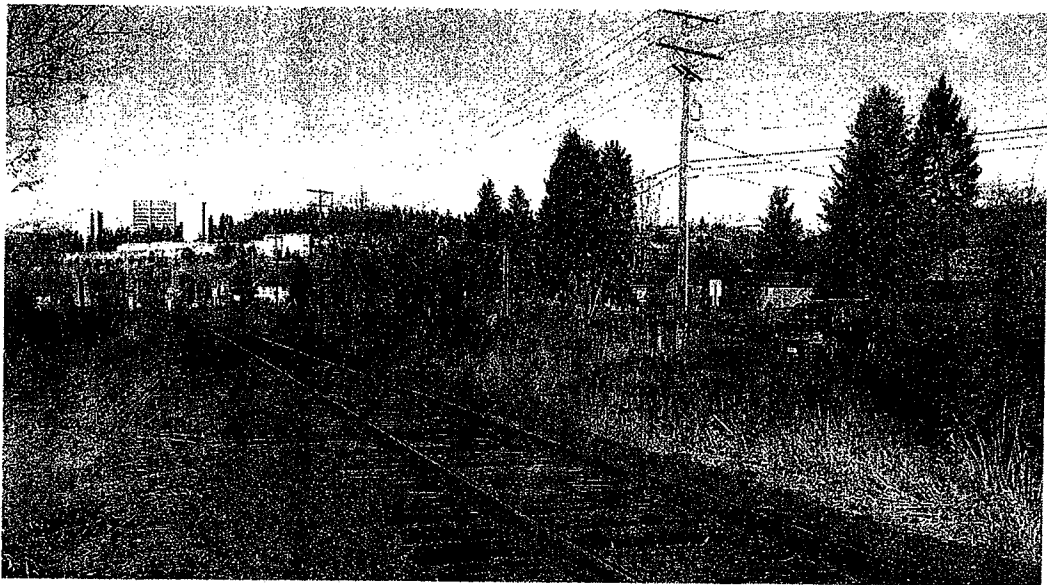
Proposed crossing looking west.



Proposed crossing looking east.



Tracks south from crossing.



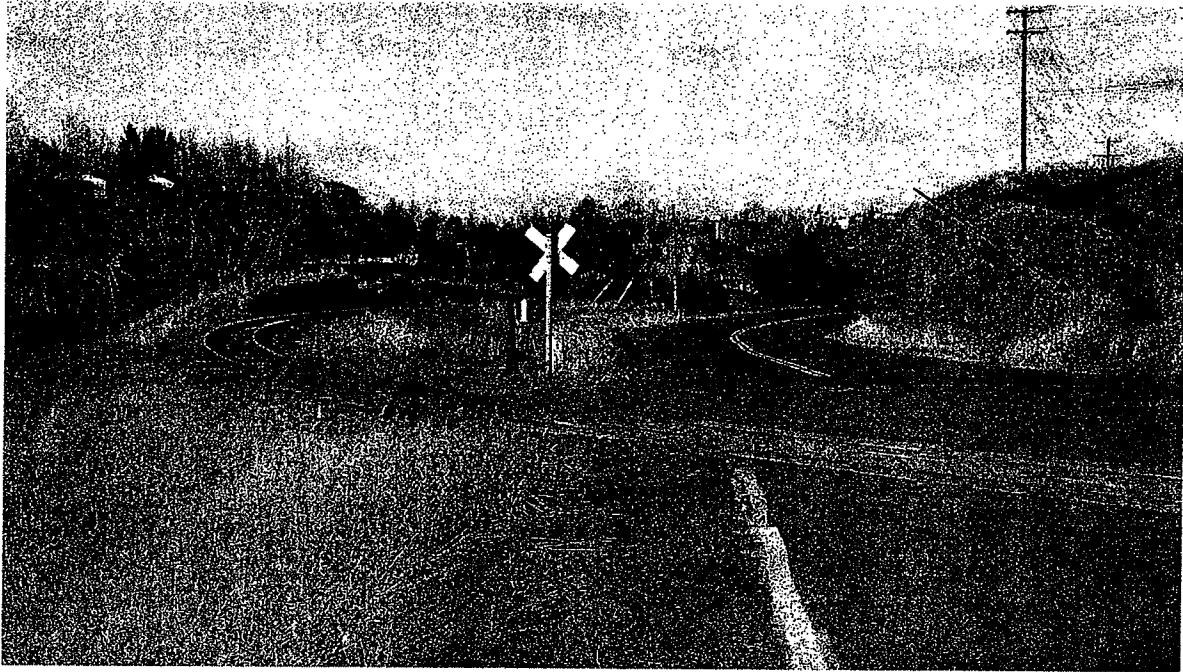
Tracks north of crossing.



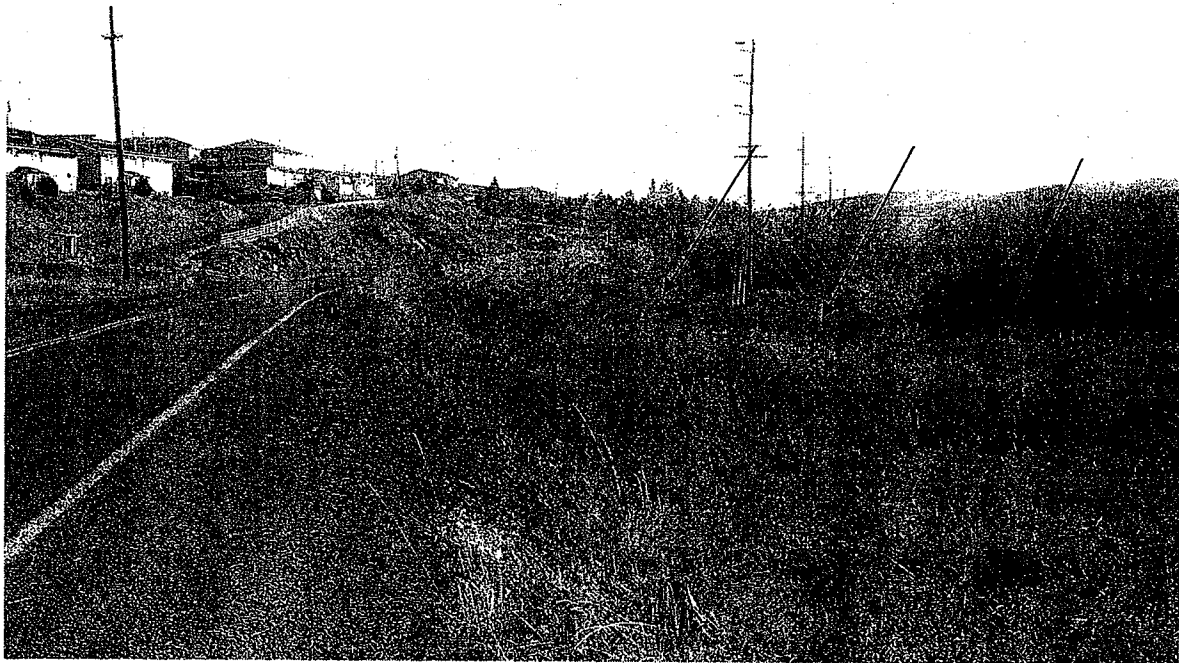
Looking north along Johnson Avenue. Arrow indicates petitioned crossing. Low area between tracks and roadway is wetland.



Looking south along Johnson Road from proposed crossing. Rock bluff left of roadway is 390' long and up to 30' high. Removing enough rock to accommodate path would require relocating power line. Area on right between roadway and railroad tracks is wetland.



Existing road crossing at sharp skew angle. Note narrow shoulder. Area at lower left is wetland. Arrow indicates south end of rock bluff.



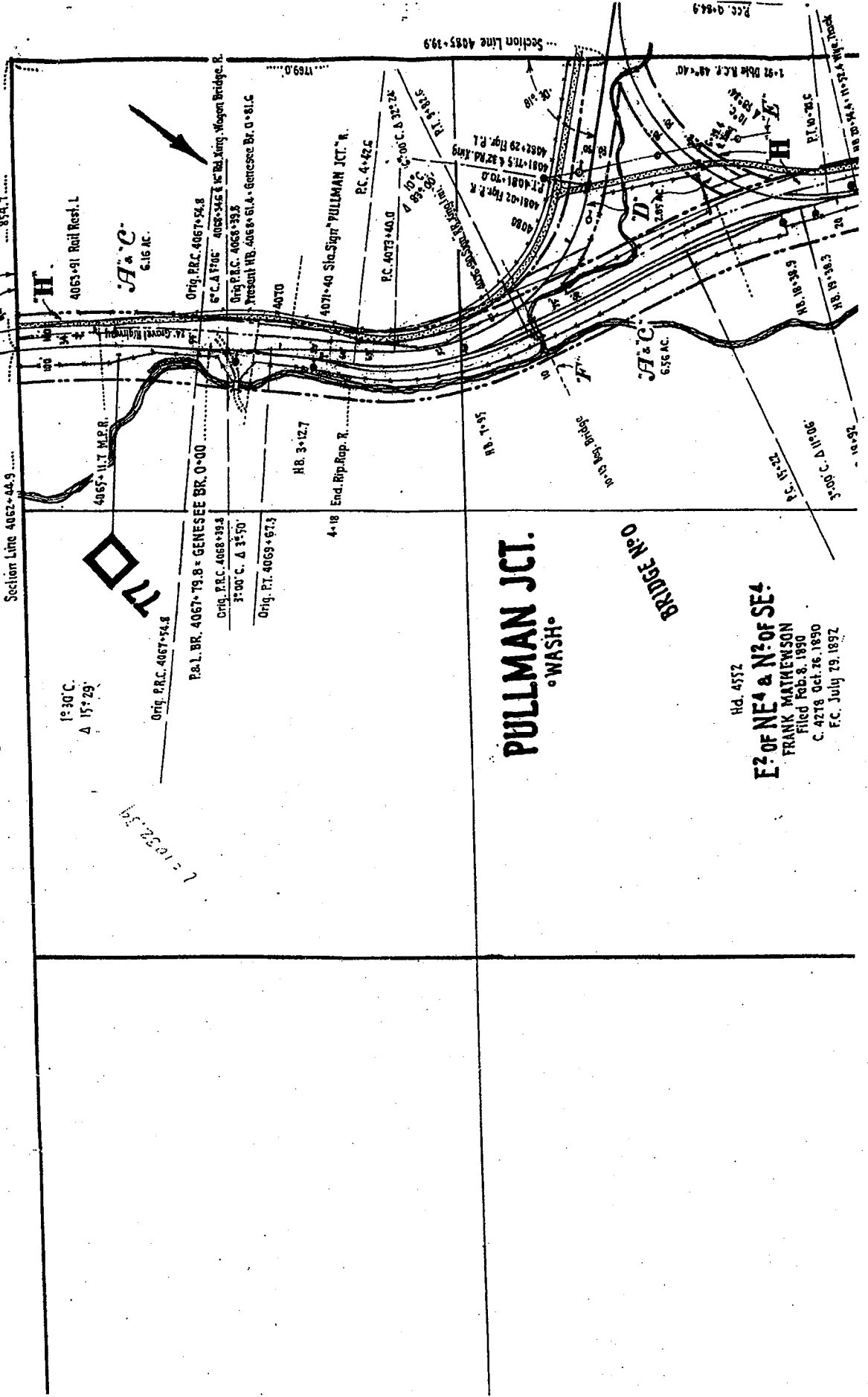
Narrow shoulders would require extensive fill in wetlands adjacent to roadway. Arrows indicate proposed path location on abandoned rail bed. Buildings at upper left are low cost housing units served by the project.



Existing abandoned rail bed. Current use is heavy enough to keep the trail relatively clear. Improvements will only require tight blading, addition of 3" of crushed surfacing and 2" of asphalt paving. This is a low cost, practical solution to our transportation needs and reutilizes existing finite resources.

The arrow indicates the west shoulder of Johnson Avenue and provides a good visual of the extent of fill required to widen the roadway for an adjacent path.

N. P. Ry.
 Right of Way Plat
 State of Washington
 County of Whitman
 Township 14 North
 Range 45 East
 of Willamette Meridian



Hd. 4552
 E 1/2 OF NE 1/4 & N 1/2 OF SE 1/4
 FRANK MATHEWSON
 Filed Feb. 8, 1950
 C. 4278, Oct. 26, 1890
 F.C. July 29, 1897

ASSESSMENT ROLL

PARCEL# & ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	LAND	IMPR	TOTAL
8-1490-00-00-0028 1490 13 818 GORMSEN, MICHAEL W 1330 SE JOHNSON RD (SITE)	GORMSEN, MICHAEL W P O BOX 221 PULLMAN, WA 99163	1A GORMSENS SHORT PLAT NO. 1 9.5AC 12-00/49392 626904	29532 0	137112 0	166644 0
8-1490-00-00-0029 1490 13 869 WHITMAN CO HUMANE SOCIETY	WHITMAN CO HUMANE SOCIETY 126 S GRAND AVE PULLMAN, WA 99163	1B 45 GORMSENS SHORT PLAT NO. 1 6.5AC 12-00/49392 626904	20148 0	0 0	20148 0
8-1490-00-00-0027 1490 13 811 C T L, LLC 1360 SE JOHNSON RD (SITE) DBA: GORMSEN PLUMBING	C T L, LLC PO BOX 725 PULLMAN, WA 99163	2 GORMSENS SHORT PLAT NO. 1 27480-SF GORMSEN PLUMBING 1-00/47960 621397	12000 0	163260 0	175260 0
8-1490-00-00-0025 1490 13 811 WESTERN SLOPE LLC 1300 S JOHNSON RD (SITE)	WESTERN SLOPE LLC PO BOX 541 PULLMAN, WA 99163	3 GORMSENS SHORT PLAT NO. 1 16592 5-97 605259 4-98/45260 608810	7872 0	76608 0	84480 0

ASSESSMENT ROLL

PARCEL# & ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	LAND	IMPR	TOTAL
8-1490-00-00-0016 1490 13 RIMA, FRANK FAMILY L R	RIMA, FRANK 14646 NE 181ST ST WOODINVILLE, WA 98072	N1/2 8-14-45 5 AC	50000 0	0 0	50000 0
8-1490-00-00-0019 1490 13 HAYNES, ANTONY/JOANN 1240 SE JOHNSON RD (SITE) PULLMAN, WA 99163	HAYNES, ANTHONY/JOANN 130 SW CEDAR PULLMAN, WA 99163	N1/2 8-14-45	19872 0	135264 0	155136 0
8-1490-00-00-0022 1490 13 PULLMAN CONGREGATION JEHOVAH WITNESSES	PULLMAN CONGREGATION JEHOVAH WITNESSES 645 TAYLOR PULLMAN, WA 99163	N1/2 8-14-45 NE1/4 9625 SQ FT & 21X235 STRIP IN NE COR	624 0	0 0	624 0
8-1490-00-00-0023 1490 13 PULLMAN CONGREGATION JEHOVAH WITNESSES	PULLMAN CONGREGATION JEHOVAH WITNESSES 645 TAYLOR PULLMAN, WA 99163	N1/2 8-14-45 NE1/4 NE1/4 15985 SQ FT	1860 0	0 0	1860 0
8-1490-00-00-0024 1490 13 GORMSEN, MICHAEL/SUSAN	GORMSEN, MICHAEL W PO BOX 221 PULLMAN, WA 99163	N1/2 8-14-45 NE1/4 65X245 TT NE COR	3732 0	0 0	3732 0
8-1490-00-00-0043 1490 13 PULLMAN JEHOVAHS WIT	PULLMAN JEHOVAHS WIT	N1/2 8-14-45 TRACT 85' X 130'	252 0	12564 0	12816 0