

TR-143222

Lane Kawaoka
BNSF Railway Company
Project Engineer

BNSF Railway Company
2454 Occidental Ave South # 2-D
Seattle WA 98134
Office: 206-625-6060
Fax: 206-625-6356
Email: Lane.Kawaoka@bnsf.com



August 29, 2014

RECEIVED
RECORDS MANAGEMENT
2014 AUG 29 AM 10: 05
STATE OF WASH.
UTIL. AND TRANSP.
COMMISSION

Kathy Hunter
Deputy Assistant Director, Trans. Safety
WUTC
1300 S Evergreen Park Dr SW
PO Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Re: WUTC Docket No. TR-XXXXXXXXXX USDOT Crossing No.: 092446J

Ms. Hunter,

This letter is in support of the aforementioned WUTC petition on behalf of BNSF Railway Company for highway-rail grade crossing upgrades at Toteff Road (DOT# 092446J) in Cowlitz Co., WA. The following is supplemental information as provided in Section 11 of the petition for proposed reconstruction. The project is designed to alleviate freight train traffic interference with Amtrak passenger trains just south of Kalama, WA by constructing a new main track and extending the current siding track through the Toteff Road crossing. The siding track will alleviate heavy Port of Kalama grain traffic and eliminate the need to foul the main lines when building inbound and departing grain traffic. The new main line east of the existing tracks will allow for unimpeded movement of Amtrak Cascade service. Both projects will improve Cascades intercity passenger service. The proposed reconstruction of the crossing is to add these two additional tracks creating a total of four (4) BNSF owned mainline tracks and (3) BNSF owned industry tracks at Toteff Road. The additional tracks through the crossing will not cause an increase of occurrence or duration of trains blocking the intersection.

In addition to the benefits of passenger rail service in the area, this proposal will include improvements to the overall configuration, grade, and surface of the Toteff Road crossing. The major reconfiguration involves a fully signalized and gated couplet designed to decrease foul (block) time for traffic in the

intersection and remove sight distance issues caused by a private fence line at the Temco industry tracks. Additional improvements to the roadway include widened travel lanes for truck traffic and mountable curb installations. The scope of the Toteff Road crossing improvement will include enhanced signage at the crossing as well as on the adjacent I-5 highway to direct public and recreation traffic to exit 30 of I-5.

The additional capacity will alleviate delays to passenger service in the area and increase traffic flow thus decreasing blockage at the public crossing. Please review the attached petition and if there are any questions please contact me at (206)-625-6060.

Attachments:

UTC Petition Docket No. TR XXXXXXXX

Respectfully,

Lane Kawaoka

cc via email: DJ Mitchell, BNSF Railway Co
Walt Smith, BNSF Railway Co
Danniel MacDonald, BNSF Railway Co
Megan Reagan, BNSF Railway Co