



Transportation Services

2702 South 42nd Street, Suite 201
Tacoma, Washington 98409-7322
(253) 798-7250 • FAX (253) 798-2740

August 25, 2008

David W. Danner, Executive Director and Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr SW
P. O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

2008 AUG 27 AM 8:20
STATE OF WASH.
UTIL. AND TRANSP.
COMMISSION

Subject: TR-081407 Petition from Meeker Southern Railroad to Modify a Highway-Rail
Grade Crossing at 134th Ave East in Pierce County.
USDOT Crossing 085536R

Dear Mr. Danner:

We have received your August 12, 2008 letter and attachments. Pierce County does not support the petition.

In an ongoing effort to enhance the safety for the traveling public, it is the preference of Pierce County to minimize any railroad tracks crossing the Pierce County system of public roads. Consequently, prior to receiving your August 12th letter, we have recommended that the connection of the railroad spur to the existing Meeker Southern Railroad main line be located further to the east of the proposed location. As of this date, we have not received any documentation that justifies why the spur connection cannot be provided further to the east of 134th Avenue E such that no additional tracks are constructed in the roadway.

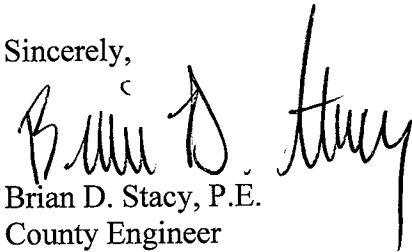
The proposed construction of an additional track south of the existing crossing on 134th Avenue E will reduce the existing storage for vehicles stopped between the tracks and the intersection with Pioneer Way by one or two vehicles. Since the existing railroad tracks are already in close proximity to the intersection, further reduction of the vehicle storage increases the potential of traffic backing up on to Pioneer Way E. This represents a potential safety concern to the traveling public. For your information, 134th Avenue E is a part of a collector arterial route, and has an average daily traffic volume of approximately 2,500 vehicles per day.



David Danner
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
August 25, 2008
Page 2

Because the subject project impacts property primarily under the jurisdiction of the Parks Department, the Pierce County Parks Department is the lead on this project from a Pierce County perspective. We have previously expressed our willingness to meet as a group to address all questions that the Meeker Southern Railroad may have associated with our review of this project. We are still willing to meet as a group to further discuss. The meeting should be coordinated with Grant Griffin, Pierce County Parks Department at 253 798 4049.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian D. Stacy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "B" and "S".

Brian D. Stacy, P.E.
County Engineer

BDS:JWE:jlb

cc: James W. Ellison, P.E., County Traffic Engineer
Jerry P. Bryant, P.E. Field Engineering Manager
Grant Griffin, Parks Department
File
UTC - Byron Cole 8 21 2008 jwe.doc