



STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250
(206) 753-6423 • (SCAN) 234-6423 • TDD (206) 586-8203

June 20, 1994

Mr. Dave Zabell
City Administrator
City of Marysville
514 Delta Avenue
Marysville, Washington 98270

Dear Mr. Zabell:

SUBJ: Increase in Rail Speed
TR-940309

The Commission transportation division staff has been conducting field investigations involving requests for train speed increases in the cities of Edmonds, Marysville, Stanwood, Burlington, Mount Vernon, Ferndale, and Blaine. The staff believes it appropriate to give each city a status report on this project.

Commission staff began its field investigation in Blaine during April and is working south toward Edmonds. The staff review includes inspecting the track and other structures, as well as all grade crossings within the corporate limits of each city. The staff is also reviewing local conditions that may be safety factors affecting train speeds. The staff is reviewing Burlington Northern's proposed track and signal improvements.

In addition, as part of the staff's investigation, the staff plans to meet with each city and discuss the investigation and review any concerns the cities might have. The staff will discuss with each of the cities the Commission's process in determining maximum allowable train speeds through the cities and towns along the Seattle to Vancouver B.C. corridor.

Commission staff hopes to set meeting dates with Blaine, Ferndale, and Stanwood in late July or August. The staff hopes to meet with the cities of Mount Vernon, Burlington, Marysville, and Edmonds during August or early September.

For those cities opposing the requests to increase train speeds, hearings will likely be scheduled during September and October of this year. Advanced notification will be given to each city and



Mr. Dave Zabell
June 20, 1994
Page 2

party to the proceeding (BN, Amtrak, WSDOT) to prepare for the hearings. Other interested parties and the public will also receive advanced notice of hearing dates.

If you have questions or require additional information, please contact Alan Scott, Operations Manager, at (206) 753-6410, in Olympia.

Sincerely,

Steve McLellan
Secretary

cc: Andy Anderson
Office of Congressman Al Swift
Washington, D.C.

Florine Bolar
Office of U.S. Senator Slade Gorton
Seattle, WA

Mary Bowen
Office of State Representative Sue Karahalios

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Mr. Dave Zabell
June 20, 1994
Page 3

Don Maze
Burlington Northern Railroad

Gil Mallery
WSDOT

Washington State Representative Gary Nelson
Assistant Minority Floor Leader

Washington State Representative Paul Shin

Jim Slakey
WSDOT

Jim Toohey
WSDOT

Joanne Wilk
Office of State Senator Mary Margaret Haugen

Ken Willeford
Office of State Representative Barry Sehlin

Washington State Representative Jeannette Wood
Minority Whip