



STATE OF 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

September 25, 2015

Barbara Aberle, Environmental Manager  
Washington State Department of Transportation  
11018 NE 51<sup>st</sup> Circle  
Vancouver, WA 98682-6686

**RE: Industrial Way/Oregon Way Intersection Project – Scoping Comments**

Dear Ms. Aberle:

Thank you for inviting the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) to participate in the Industrial Way/Oregon Way Intersection Project. As UTC staff indicated at the September 17, 2015, agency scoping meeting, the UTC plans to be involved as a participating agency.

Of the design concepts presented at the meeting, commission staff prefers grade separation. There are three existing at-grade highway-rail grade crossings within the project area:

- Industrial Way/State Route 432 (SR-432) – USDOT #101794P
- SR-433/Oregon Way – USDOT #101805A
- Columbia Way/Industrial Way/SR-432 – USDOT #101806G

Grade-separating railroad crossings eliminates the possibility of train/vehicle collisions. It can also improve emergency response times and access, as well as eliminate driver delay due to blocked crossings. The Legislature established a preference for grade separation where practicable (RCW 81.53.020) and there is a formal petition process at the UTC to pursue grade separation (RCW 81.53.060).

If the grade-separated design option is ultimately selected, an area of specific concern for UTC staff is reducing or eliminating access for pedestrians and cyclists to railroad tracks below the grade separation. This can be accomplished through fencing, channelization and signage.

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UTC staff appreciates the opportunity to participate in this process and looks forward to being a resource related to rail safety as this project progresses.

Please contact Kathy Hunter, Rail Safety Manager, with any questions. Ms. Hunter can be reached at (360) 664-1257 or by email at [khunter@utc.wa.gov](mailto:khunter@utc.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Pratt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a stylized "P".

David Pratt  
Assistant Director, Transportation Safety