

CITY OF WASHOUGAL, WASHINGTON
RESOLUTION NO. 1048

A **RESOLUTION** of the city council of the City of Washougal, Washington, expressing concern regarding the impact of increased rail traffic in Washougal resulting from proposed rail terminal projects in Whatcom County and Cowlitz County and requesting that the principal agencies reviewing the Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) for said projects, including Whatcom County, Cowlitz County, Washington Department of Ecology and The United States Army Corps of Engineers, include impacts along the train route for freight moving to the proposed terminals in the scoping document for the EIS and that at least one of the EIS Scoping hearings and one of any other subsequent hearings related to the EIS for each project be held in Clark County.

WHEREAS, the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) track runs through and bisects both communities of Washougal and Camas running east/west; and

WHEREAS, Washougal has five at-grade crossings and only one grade separated crossing; and

WHEREAS, there are proposed rail terminal projects in Whatcom County (the Gateway Pacific Terminal Project, or GPT) and Cowlitz County (Millennium Project); and

WHEREAS, the proposed projects will significantly increase freight traffic on the BNSF track; and

WHEREAS, the increased freight traffic is intended to be coal being delivered to the new terminals but may potentially include a variety of commodities; and

WHEREAS, this increased rail traffic will have impacts in Washougal and Camas including but not limited to increased traffic congestion and delays to residents and commerce and increased tail pipe emissions from stopped and idling vehicles and;

WHEREAS, Washougal has been made aware of potential impacts from coal dust and other particulates that may be blown from open rail cars but has no way to evaluate such potential impacts; and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County, Washington Department of Ecology and the United States Corp of Engineers have entered into an MOU to jointly promulgate the required EIS and are currently scoping the EIS for the GTP project; and

WHEREAS, Cowlitz County is evaluating an application and developing an EIS for the Millennium project and Washington Department of Ecology and the United States Corp of Engineers are also involved; and

WHEREAS, said agencies should include the impacts of this increased rail traffic in the scope of the EIS for each project and public hearings at the various stages of the EIS process should be conducted in Clark County; and

WHEREAS, the City of Washougal wishes to become a Party of Record regarding both projects,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF WASHOUGAL AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION I

We urge Whatcom County, Cowlitz County, State Department of Ecology and United States Army Corps of Engineers to include impacts to Washougal, including but not limited to increased traffic congestion and delays to residents and commerce, increased tail pipe emissions from stopped and idling vehicles and potential impacts from coal dust and other particulates that may be blown from open rail cars in the scoping of the EIS for both the GPT project and the Millennium project.

SECTION II

We urge Whatcom County, Cowlitz County, State Department of Ecology and United States Army Corps of Engineers to conduct at least one EIS scoping hearing for each project and at least one of any subsequent hearings related to the EIS for both projects at a location in Clark County.


SECTION III

We request that the City of Washougal be made a Party of Record for both the GPT and Millennium projects.

SECTION IV

That this Resolution shall take effect and be in full force upon passage and signatures hereon.
Dated and signed this 19th day of March, 2012.

CITY OF WASHOUGAL



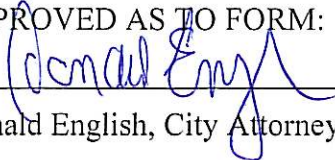
Sean Guard, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jennifer Forsberg, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Donald English, City Attorney