

E1-3093

CP



"Phinney, Elizabeth"  
<PhinneE@wsdot.wa.gov>  
08/09/2007 06:39 PM

To <Christa.Dean@stb.dot.gov>, "Wood, Andrew"  
<WoodA@WSDOT.WA.GOV>, "Gregory, Lynnette"  
<GregorL@WSDOT.WA.GOV>, <linda@resourcenw.com>,  
cc

cc

bcc

Subject FW: RE:

-----Original Message-----

From: Robbie Mason [mailto:rmason@mlsd.wednet.edu]  
Sent: Thursday, August 09, 2007 3:21 PM  
To: Phinney, Elizabeth  
Subject: Re: RE:

Dear Ms. Phinney,

Thank you.

I look forward to hearing from the OL presenter in our area.

I am pleased to read that the WSDOT and STB will be reviewing their route decision. I believe it would be in the best interest of our school, our students, and the surrounding neighborhood to establish a different route to support and encourage increased rail traffic.

Our school has been well-supported by the WSDOT, specifically with the award of a Safe Routes to School grant to help improve travel conditions for our students (on the north side of our grounds). I am confident that your organization truly cares about the well-being of our children and local residents, and know that the decision reached will be made with them in mind.

Sincerely,

Robbie Mason

On Aug 9, 2007, at 1:37 PM, Phinney, Elizabeth wrote:

> Dear Ms. Mason,

>

> Thank you for your comments. We very much appreciate hearing from the  
> community about the impacts that the proposed rail project will have  
> on neighborhoods, schools, and residents.

>

> I passed on the need for Operation Lifesaver (OL) presentations for  
> your school. Carolyn Simmonds said that she has notified the OL area  
> coordinator that presentations are needed for Longview Elementary,  
> even if the proposed rail project does not get approved by the STB.

>

> Because so many community members have voiced opposition to the  
> proposed route, both WSDOT and the STB are looking at whether an  
> alternate route should be examined more thoroughly. That decision has

> not been made yet.

>

> I am looking forward to talking with you.

>  
> Sincerely,  
>  
> Elizabeth Phinney  
> Rail Environmental Manager  
>  
>  
> -----Original Message-----  
> From: Robbie Mason [mailto:rmason@mlsd.wednet.edu]  
> Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2007 6:21 PM  
> To: Phinney, Elizabeth  
> Subject:  
>  
> Dear Ms. Phinney,  
>  
> My name is Robbie Mason. I am the principal at Longview Elementary in  
> Moses Lake. I have received a few phone calls from community members  
> with concerns about the Northern Columbia Basin Railroad Project. My  
> understanding is that this project includes (or may include) making  
> improvements to the existing railroad that runs directly behind our  
> elementary site. This railroad also runs alongside a neighborhood,  
> which includes several school-aged children who attend our school. If  
>  
> information shared with me is correct, rail traffic could increase  
> significantly over the course of time due to the proposed Columbia  
> Basin Railroad Project. Understandably, I would have concerns about  
> children crossing the tracks and their safety, not only during school  
> hours, but after our operating hours and on weekends as well. Our  
> school playground is the only place neighborhood children have to come  
>  
> and play - there are not parks or playgrounds within safe walking or  
> biking distance for area children, thus, the families that live behind  
>  
> our school (across the tracks), frequently cross the tracks to get to  
> our playground and school. We also have classrooms only yards away  
> from the railroad tracks, train traffic during school hours would  
> certainly be a disruption to learning.  
>  
> If this railroad project will result in increased traffic so close to  
> our school and neighborhood, is there an alternate route that can be  
> looked at?  
>  
> I will also try to contact you by phone.  
>  
> Sincerely,  
> Robbie Mason, Principal  
> Longview Elementary  
>