


**Washington State
Department of Transportation**



**Surface
Transportation
Board**

Northern Columbia Basin Railroad Project

EI-3062
(1)

Grant County International Airport
Thursday, July 19, 2007, 4 - 7 PM

The Surface Transportation Board, which has jurisdiction over freight rail construction, and the Washington State Department of Transportation are jointly leading the required environmental review of a proposed rail construction project in the Moses Lake area, called the Northern Columbia Basin Railroad Project. The Port of Moses Lake has proposed this project to encourage economic development and the continued use and preservation of rail in the region.

Your comments on the alternative alignments and possible environmental and community impacts of the project will be valuable input for the environmental analysis. Please leave your comments with us tonight or send them to Elizabeth Phinney, Rail Environmental Manager, by email, phinne@wsdot.wa.gov, by fax, (360) 705-6821, or by mail, WA St. Dept. of Transportation, Freight Systems Division, PO Box 47407, Olympia, WA 98504-7407 by Thursday, August 9, 2007.

Please tell us what you think

I love the idea of upgrading and expanding rail service in the Moses Lake area. The industrial areas at the Port of Moses Lake warrant a adequate reliable rail service. However, I am very disappointed by the proposed route. I don't understand the rationale that leaves a railroad adjacent to an elementary

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To add your name to the mailing list, please tell us the following:

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Thank you!

School and residential neighborhood. This area is likely to become more residential over the next 20 years. We have been working with our children to become less obese and more physically fit; why would we make their walking route to school less safe?

I am very concerned that the increase in rail traffic will make our children less safe and will also hurt their education. More frequent and longer trains undoubtedly means more noise. There are two crossings near the school; one is very near. Train whistles during the day will be a nuisance and distraction to instruction.

I would prefer a route that would bypass Longview Elementary entirely. However, if the proposed route is chosen, I would expect the developer to provide a means to provide students safe access to and from school. This may require a pedestrian bridge or tunnel, but since the proposed route is increasing risk, it should address it.