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Notes from Planning Commission Hearing

Ernest Bonner

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L. Jess Willard, 1973

EXCERPT FROM PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING ON I-505

Nov. _____ 1973

From 229 on the tape to 268.5

Jess Willard: If you read my letter, there, you'll notice that I point out
6521 S.E. 40th that ~~there~~... there are 13 rail crossings, that come
Portland into play on alternate 4, starting with United States
Steel Co. at the very top end of Yeon Ave. and
going clear down to ... the other steel company at
the ~~other end~~ far end... ~~There are 2 tracks going~~
~~to that~~ I think if you count accurately, there
are 13 actual rail crossings across there.

Unknown: Across what?

Willard: Across Yeon Avenue, from one side to the other.

Wessinger: All right, but you've got a bunch of them across Everett
and you've got a bunch of them on 12th and 13th...
We've been living with those for years and years and
years, up on 12th and 13th, to my plant.

Willard: To your plant, OK.

Wessinger: Now, what I want to know is ... can this ... how
many times do you have to make switches, can they
be done at night, can they be done at off-peak
hours, so that this number 4 alternate does not
look as bad as it does in this study and in
the other studies?

Willard: To answer your question to the best of my ability... the switches on Yeon Ave... half of them could probably be made at night, at least half of them.

The ones that are made during the daytime and would require going across a 6-lane standard-type highway with projected speeds of 60 miles, or 55 miles an hour to meet the energy crisis situation, would require going into 35th St. — number 1 — that's the major one, that's the interchange between Portland Terminal Yard and the Burlington Northern 31st St. Yard on the St. Helen's Road end. That is switched on an average of 4 times a day at present.

Meyers: And for what intervals at each time?

Willard: We pay (?) for 17 cars at a time. 17 cars, as I indicated in my letter there, an average of 53' long equals about 900' or approximately a thousand feet of box car length. It takes approximately 5 — or so replace between 3 to 6 minutes — to shove ~~across~~ across that street, so this would give you another situation much like you have at 17th and Powell, but not near as long, I mean about a third as long, probably, or a fourth as long, so it would tie up traffic. And we shove in there at least twice during the night and at least once during the day, in the morning, during peak time, about 8 o'clock.

Meyers: Are you saying that if you made maximum utilization of night switching, or the maximum that would be feasible, you'd have how many interruptions of traffic during a day — about four on the average?

Willard: 35th St. switches during the day at least once. It's pulled during the afternoon on second trip switching, sometimes between 4 o'clock and 7:30 p.m., and that's another 17 or 18 or sometimes as many as 23 cars coming out of there, coming back to us that have been interchanged back to the Terminal Company. Now this could possibly be right at peak traffic time at 5 o'clock in the afternoon, depending upon whether conditions warrant.

Then Convoy Co. has 2 tracks going across Yoon Avenue, separated by about 50... 75 feet apart that are switched at least once during the day. Now, operational-wise, I suppose, if you come right down to it, we could do that at night, if we had to, but I don't think Convoy'd like it too well. And that is switched at, oh, sometime between 12 and 2:30 in the afternoon.

Texaco is switched on afternoon — during the day — and that's right next to Convoy Co. there.

Pryor Roofing may or may not get tank cars of oil into their place, for roofing costs, during the daytime, depending upon when Shell Oil Co. gets their tank car loaded (?) for them. Normally it's done on the third trick, during the night time hours.

The rest of the places I would, presumably could be switched on third trick, during midnight to six a.m. To the best of my knowledge, those places that I reiterated to you are the ones that would be done during the day time and during day time traffic hours.