

PUGET SOUND REGIONAL COUNCIL PRIORITY PROJECT LIST

NARRATIVE PROJECT INFORMATION *October 2011*

Project Sponsor: *City of Kent*

Project Name: *Willis Street UPRR Grade Separation*

Project Location: *Along Willis Street at the Union Pacific Railroad tracks.*

What type of project is it: Support Centers ____ Corridors Serving Centers x

Plan Consistency:

- Transportation 2040 project number: 5289
- Is the project consistent with the Transportation 2040: Yes x No ____

Project Description - No more than one full page - (see evaluation criteria for information to include):

- Briefly describe the project
Willis Street (SR-516) is a major conduit for the distribution of goods and services and provides an important link between Kent, SR-167, SR-18 and I-5. Over 300 businesses and warehouses use this route to trade with over 30 countries via the Ports of Seattle and Tacoma. More than 27,000 vehicles per day travel on Willis Street, including over 800 freight-bearing trucks.

The Willis Street UP Railroad Grade Separation Project will reconstruct Willis Street to pass over the UPRR tracks. This project is a critical step toward eliminating rail/vehicle at-grade conflicts that slow the movement of truck freight between the Ports of Seattle and Tacoma and the warehousing complex in the Valley.

The at-grade crossing of the UP operates with significant delays caused by trains over a mile and a quarter long. These delays are anticipated to worsen. The safety and time-saving benefits are substantial. The UP lines run to and from the Ports of Seattle and Tacoma through Kent's warehouse and distribution center. Kent's distribution center includes more than 300

businesses and warehouses and is part of the second largest distribution center on the west coast. Keeping these lines moving efficiently and safely means time and money for the international trade traveling through the port and warehouse complexes.

- What is the intended outcome & benefit

By separating the railroad traffic from the roadway traffic, the choke point will no longer impede freight and commuter traffic flow. The grade separation will improve safety for autos, pedestrians and bicyclists traveling on Willis Street.

Project Status & Timeline

Where is the project at in development? Preliminary Design is 10-percent complete.

What is the timeline for this project from start to completion?

(Please identify the major phases)

Design – Expected completion July 2013

Right-of-Way Acquisition – September 2013

Permitting – November 2012

Construction – Summer 2014

Additional Comments

REPEAT THE ABOVE INFORMATION FOR EACH PROJECT