

BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RESOLUTION

**IN THE MATTER OF AUTHORIZING
ADVERTISEMENT FOR REQUEST FOR
PROPOSALS TO LEASE THE COUNTY
OWNED TOPPENISH TO WHITE
SWAN RAIL LINE**

270 - 2022

WHEREAS, The current lease between Yakima County and Columbia Rail is set to expire on December 31, 2022; **and,**

WHEREAS, The Board of Yakima County Commissioners deem it in the best interest of the County that rail service on the railroad corridor between Toppenish and White Swan be preserved for the economic benefit of to the citizens of Yakima County; **and,**

WHEREAS, The Board of Yakima County Commissioners wishes to determine if there is interest by current short line railroad operators in the leasing of the Toppenish to White Swan rail line; **and,**

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Yakima County Commissioners that the Clerk of the Board is directed to post and publish the request for proposals for a duration of two (2) weeks, and that specifications for submissions be available from the office of the County Engineer, 4th Floor, County Courthouse, Yakima, WA 98901

DONE NOV 01 2022

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Attest:

Julie Lawrence, Clerk of the Board *or*
Erin Franklin, Deputy Clerk of the Board

Amanda McKinney

Amanda McKinney, Chair

LaDon Linde

LaDon Linde, Commissioner

Ron Anderson

Ron Anderson, Commissioner
*Constituting the Board of County Commissioners
for Yakima County, Washington*



TOPPENISH TO WHITE SWAN RAIL LINE REQUEST FOR LEASE PROPOSALS

Yakima County is in the process of determining if there is interest by current short line railroad operators in the leasing of the Toppenish to White Swan rail line. If your firm wishes to be considered, please submit your proposals to:

Yakima County Roads Department
128 North Second Street Fourth Floor County Courthouse
Yakima, Washington 98901

no later than 4:00pm November 18, 2022. The Board of County Commissioners will consider any and all proposal at the next regularly scheduled agenda. If there are any proposals for lease The Board of County Commissioners will set a Public Hearing to consider the request(s) for November 29, 2022.

Each Proposal shall be accompanied by a deposit of ten dollars (\$10.00). The deposit shall be in the form of a certified check or certificate of deposit on some bank in the county or may be paid in cash (RCW 36.34.150).

Lease proposals should at a minimum address the following items:

1. Company information, including any parent or holding company information, qualifications of the personnel to manage, operate and maintain railroad facilities.
2. The amount of money being offered to the County for the lease of the rail line.
3. The minimum amount of money that will be expended each year on the maintenance of way.
4. A statement on the company's ability to provide investment capital for the construction of rail facilities that will enhance the shipping abilities of existing or potential customers.
5. A list of other assets or resources that the company will make available to this rail line.

General Background

YAKIMA COUNTY RAIL HISTORY

In the late 1980's Yakima County acquired the 20-mile-long Toppenish to White Swan rail line from the Washington State department of Transportation. This acquisition was the joint effort of Yakima County, The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and the Yakima Valley Rail and Steam Museum (YVRSM) to prevent the line from being abandoned. Since that time Yakima County has owned the rail line and the Yakima Valley Rail and Steam Museum has provided what little freight service existed on the line and ran an excursion train.

In the mid 1990's The Yakama Nation constructed a sawmill near White Swan. This mill soon needed to have rail service given its' remote location and the diverse market for their products. In 2000 WSDOT provided Yakima County grant monies to construct a rail spur to the new sawmill. This construction was completed in 2001. In 2002 the Yakama Nation completed construction of a second sawmill that could handle "large Logs". This required the construction of a second spur to serve "Mill 2". This construction was completed in 2003.

EXISTING OPERATIONS

Service is currently being provided by Columbia Rail (formally known as Frontier Rail). Columbia Rail operates and maintains several short line railroads in Eastern Washington and Oregon. There main commodities on Toppenish White Swan line are: NGL, lumber, beef tallow, fertilizer and propane.

RAIL CONDITIONS

The main line rail on the White Swan line consists of 90 lb rail. The mainline is currently classified as Class 2 track. The roadbed is in fair condition but is in need of a tie replacement program and ballasting. All of the sidings are constructed with 66lb rail, except the siding at Ashue which has 85 lb rail and the run around at Wesley Junction which has 90 lb rail.

There are 17 bridges on the line. 15 are timber structures and two are concrete structures. Bridges 0.42, 4.25, 10.05, 12.90 & 17.86 were rehabilitated in 2000. The concrete structures were constructed in 2001. The remaining structures have received limited maintenance.

DONE this 1st day of November, 2022



ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Julie Lawrence", written over a horizontal line.

Julie Lawrence, Clerk of the Board

PUBLISH: Yakima Herald Republic – November 4, 2022

Bill to: **Account No. 10830, Yakima County Auditor #14**
Yakima County Public Services
128 North 2nd Street, 4th Floor
Yakima, WA 98901