

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

TACOMA RAIL,)	DOCKET NO. TR-041113
)	
Petitioner,)	ORDER NO. 01
)	
v.)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
)	UPGRADE WARNING DEVICES AT
THURSTON COUNTY,)	A RAILROAD-HIGHWAY GRADE
)	CROSSING
Respondent.)	
)	USDOT: 396756V
)	WUTC: 20J 1.00
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On June 18, 2004, Tacoma Rail filed a petition with the Commission, seeking approval to upgrade warning devices at a railroad-highway grade crossing. The crossing is located at the intersection of the Petitioner’s tracks and Maytown Road, in the SE ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 5, Township 16 N., Range 2 W., W.M., in Thurston County, Washington. Funding for the upgrades is pursuant to the Inter-modal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, in cooperation with the Washington State Department of Transportation.
- 2 Respondent has consented to an entry of an Order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.
- 3 In the vicinity of the crossing, Maytown Road is classified as a major collector, with two lanes for each direction of traffic and a vehicle speed limit of 45 mph. Average daily traffic through the crossing is estimated at 5,130 vehicles, including 260 trucks and four school bus trips.
- 4 Petitioner maintains one main track through the crossing. Average train traffic across Maytown Road is estimated at two trains per day. The maximum timetable speed through the crossing is 20 mph.

5 Warning devices at the crossing include rotatable cantilever-mounted flashing
light signals. Petitioner seeks to upgrade the signals at the crossing by installing
newer state-owned cantilever-mounted signals, retrofitted with new 12-inch LED
signal heads. The changes are proposed in the interest of improving public
safety at the crossing.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of
the State of Washington having jurisdiction over public railroad-highway
grade crossings within the state of Washington. *Chapter 81.53 RCW.*
- 7 (2) The Maytown Road grade crossing, identified as USDOT 396756V, is a
public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington.
- 8 (3) RCW 81.53.261 requires that the Commission grant approval prior to any
changes in the method and manner of traffic control at public railroad-
highway grade crossings within the state of Washington.
- 9 (4) Commission Staff investigated the petition and recommended that it be
granted, subject to specified conditions.
- 10 (5) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled
meeting on August 11, 2004.
- 11 (6) After examination of the petition filed by Tacoma Rail on June 18, 2004,
and giving consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause
shown, the Commission grants the petition.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

12 The petition of Tacoma Rail to upgrade warning devices at a public railroad-highway grade crossing, located at the intersection of Maytown Road and the Petitioner's tracks, in Thurston County, Washington, is granted, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) The upgrades must conform to the specifications filed in this proceeding.
- (2) Traffic control devices must comply with all applicable standards specified in the U.S. Department of Transportation *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.
- (3) Traffic control devices and instrument housing must be installed in such a manner as to provide required clearances from both the roadway and railroad tracks.
- (4) Upon completion of the upgrades authorized herein, Petitioner must notify the Commission. Acceptance of the changes is subject to inspection by Commission Staff, verifying that the crossing is in full compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and the conditions specified herein.

The Commissioners, having determined that this filing complies with the requirements of RCW 81.53.261, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 11th day of August 2004.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary