

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

In The Matter of the Petition of)	DOCKET NO. TR-061273
)	
TACOMA RAIL,)	ORDER 01
)	
Petitioner,)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
v.)	UPGRADE DETECTION CIRCUITRY
)	AND AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURE
CITY OF OLYMPIA,)	FROM THE GRADE CROSSING
)	PROTECTIVE FUND
Respondent.)	
)	USDOT: 085268H
)	UTC: 20M9.48
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On August 4, 2006, Tacoma Rail filed a petition with the Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission), seeking approval to upgrade detection circuitry and warning signals at a railroad-highway grade crossing. The crossing is identified as USDOT 085268H and located at Columbia Street and the respondent's tracks in Thurston County, Washington. The petitioner further requested the Commission authorize an expenditure of \$15,000 from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund to pay for the upgrades.

- 2 Railroad warning devices at the Columbia Street crossing consist of cantilever-mounted flashing light signals and gates, activated by AC/DC circuitry, using interlocking mechanical track relay detection circuitry. The petitioner proposes to replace the existing equipment with newer AC/DC circuitry and instrument housing, walk-out cantilever, and flashing light heads with LED twelve-inch light heads. These upgrades will improve overall visibility and reliability of the warning system and bring the equipment into compliance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Device standards.

- 3 The petitioner requests Grade Crossing Protective Fund monies be allocated to pay for the upgrades. The total approximate cost of the project is \$15,000, which includes using surplus equipment provided by Tacoma Rail, WSDOT, and the Commission. An expenditure of \$15,000 from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund is available to pay for the improvements.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4 (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.*
- 5 (2) The Columbia Street grade crossing, identified as USDOT 085268H, is a public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington.
- 6 (3) WAC 480-62-150 (2)(d) requires the Commission grant approval prior to any changes to detection circuitry at public railroad-highway grade crossings within the state of Washington.
- 7 (4) RCW 81.53.271 allows the Commission to disburse up to \$20,000 from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund to pay for the installation of a grade crossing protective device, without requiring a cost-share by the petitioner.
- 8 (5) Commission staff investigated the petition and recommended that it be granted, subject to specified conditions.
- 9 (6) After examination of the petition filed by Tacoma Rail on August 4, 2006, and giving consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission grants the petition.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 10 The petition of Tacoma Rail to upgrade train detection circuitry at a railroad-highway grade crossing, located at Columbia Street and the respondent's tracks in Thurston County, Washington, is granted. The cost of this upgrade shall be paid from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund. Approval of the petition is subject to the following conditions:
- (1) Expenditure from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must not exceed \$15,000.

- (2) Payment will be made upon presentation of claim for reimbursement for materials and labor, and verification by Commission staff that the work has been satisfactorily completed.
- (3) Traffic control devices must comply with all applicable standards specified in the U.S. Department of Transportation *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.
- (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 the crossing is in full compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and the conditions specified herein.

The Executive Secretary, on behalf of the Commissioners, has determined that this filing complies with the requirements of RCW 81.53.030, and RCW 81.53.271.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 4th day of October, 2006.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Executive Secretary