

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

SPOKANE COUNTY,)	DOCKET TR-070025
)	
Petitioner,)	ORDER 01
)	
v.)	
)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
WASHINGTON STATE)	CONSTRUCT A PUBLIC RAILROAD-
DEPARTMENT OF)	HIGHWAY GRADE CROSSING AT
TRANSPORTATION,)	STATE ROUTE 902
)	
Respondent)	USDOT: 922985S
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On January 2, 2007, Spokane County (county) filed a petition with the Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission), seeking approval to construct a public railroad-highway grade crossing. The construction of this crossing is part of the Geiger Spur Connection project. The location of the crossing is Milepost 0.73 at State Route 902 (SR 902) in Spokane County, Washington.

- 2 Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) has consented to an entry of an Order by the Commission without further notice or hearing, with the condition that a concrete surface is installed at the crossing.

- 3 SR 902 is classified as a minor arterial highway with a speed limit of 55 miles per hour. The county estimates daily traffic through the crossing consists of 5,200 vehicles within a 24-hour period, including 200 trucks and four school bus trips. The county estimates daily traffic will increase over the crossing in the next 20 years to 10,000 vehicles, including 500 trucks and six school bus trips.

- 4 The county will maintain one spur track through the crossing. Average daily train traffic consists of one freight train traveling at a maximum speed of 20 miles per hour. No passenger trains will use the tracks at this crossing.

- 5 The county proposes to install cantilever-mounted signals and shoulder-mounted gates at the crossing to warn motorists of an approaching train.

6 The Geiger Spur Connection project is a partnership between Spokane County and
WSDOT. The project is currently funded through a 2003 Legislative Transportation
Package of 3.5 million dollars and 2005 Partnership Funding (Weight Fees) of 1.5
million dollars for a total project cost of 5 million dollars. The project will replace
deteriorating track, relocate and install new track which will bypass Fairchild Air Force
Base for security reasons, and preserve rail service to several industrial customers in the
Airway Heights Industrial Park.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 7 (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. *RCW 81.53*.
- 8 (2) The proposed construction of a crossing involves a public railroad-highway grade
crossing, as defined in *RCW 81.53.010*.
- 9 (3) *RCW 81.53.060* requires the Commission grant approval prior to constructing a
public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington.
- 10 (4) Commission staff investigated the petition and recommends that it be granted,
subject to the following conditions:
- The county must install advance railroad warning sign W10-1 and pavement
markings, which tells travelers a crossing is approaching.
 - The county must ensure that emergency notification information is displayed
on the bungalow.
 - The crossing surface must be concrete.
- 11 (5) This filing complies with the requirements of *WAC 480-62-150*, *RCW 81.53.030*
and *RCW 81.53.271*.
- 12 (6) After examination of the petition filed by Spokane County on January 2, 2007,
and giving consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the
Commission grants the petition with the conditions identified below.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

13 The petition of Spokane County to construct a public railroad-highway grade crossing at State Route 902, Spokane County, Washington, is granted, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) All construction and installations must conform to the plans filed in this proceeding, including a concrete crossing surface.
- (2) The county must install pavement markings and advance railroad warning signs W10-1 in accordance with highway engineering standards.
- (3) The county must ensure that emergency notification information is displayed on the bungalow.
- (4) Advance warning and emergency notification signs must comply with applicable standards specified in the U.S. Department of Transportation *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.
- (5) Upon completion of the authorized construction, 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 as specified in this order.

The Commissioners, having determined that this filing complies with the requirements of RCW 81.53.030, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective March 14, 2007.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Executive Secretary

