

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

SPOKANE COUNTY,)	DOCKET TR-070026
)	
Petitioner,)	ORDER 01
)	
v.)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION FOR
)	PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS AND
BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY,)	INTERCONNECTION OF RAILROAD
)	WARNING SIGNALS AND TRAFFIC
Respondent)	SIGNALS AT FREYA STREET
)	
)	USDOT: 058803V
)	UTC: 2A1470.40
)	
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On January 2, 2007, Spokane County (county) filed a petition with the Commission seeking approval to install sidewalks on Freya Street and to interconnect a proposed traffic signal on Market Street with the railroad crossing signal on Freya Street. The crossing is located at Freya Street and BNSF Railway Company's (BNSF) tracks in Spokane County.
- 2 BNSF has consented to an entry of an Order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.
- 3 The county estimates average daily vehicle traffic over the crossing at 4,600, including 600 trucks and six school bus trips. The county estimates daily traffic will increase over the crossing in the next 20 years to 5,700 vehicles, including 750 trucks and eight school bus trips. The posted vehicle speed is 35 miles per hour. Average daily train traffic is four trains per day, traveling at 10 miles per hour. No passenger trains use the tracks at this crossing.
- 4 Current warning devices at the crossing include cantilever-mounted signals and shoulder mounted gates. The county will not make any changes to the signals or gates.
- 5 The county plans to install a new traffic light at the intersection of Market and Freya Streets and requests interconnection of this new traffic light with the existing railroad

signals. The county also proposes to add pedestrian sidewalks in both directions on Freya Street through the grade crossing.

- 6 The proposed upgrades are in the interest of improving safety for roadway and pedestrian users. The proposed interconnection of the new traffic signal and the railroad crossing signals will ensure that all vehicles will clear the tracks when trains approach.

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. *Chapter RCW 81.53.*
- 8 (2) The Freya Street crossing, identified as USDOT 058803V is a public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington.
- 9 (3) RCW 81.53.261 requires that the Commission grant approval prior to making changes in the method and manner of traffic control at public railroad-highway grade crossings within the state of Washington.
- 10 (4) WAC 480-62-150(1)(g) requires that the Commission grant approval prior to any changes to crossing surfaces at public railroad-highway grade crossings within the state of Washington.
- 11 (5) Commission Staff investigated the petition and recommended that it be granted.
- 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.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 13 The petition of Spokane County to modify warning devices and install pedestrian sidewalks at a railroad-highway grade crossing, located at Freya Street and the respondent's tracks in Spokane county, is granted, as follows:

- (1) The modifications must conform to those described in the petition.

- (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 authorized modifications, 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 81.53.261, 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