

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

CITY OF WALLA WALLA,)	DOCKET TR-110229
)	
Petitioner,)	ORDER 01
)	
WATCO TRANSPORTATION,)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION FOR
D/B/A PALOUSE RIVER AND)	PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS AT
COULEE CITY RAILROAD and)	THE WEST ROSE STREET HIGHWAY-
UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD)	RAILROAD GRADE CROSSING
)	
Respondents.)	
.....)	USDOT: #808488E
)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On February 2, 2011, the City of Walla Walla (City or Petitioner) filed with the Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission), a petition seeking approval to install sidewalks and extend the crossing surface at a railroad-highway grade crossing. The crossing is identified as USDOT #808488E and is located at the intersection of West Rose Street and the Respondent’s tracks in the City of Walla Walla.
- 2 Union Pacific Railroad owns the tracks and WATCO Transportation d/b/a Palouse River and Coulee City Railroad (WATCO) operates on the line. Union Pacific Railroad and WATCO, Respondents consented to entry of an Order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.
- 3 Current railroad warning devices at the crossing consist of cantilever mounted lights and gates.
- 4 Average daily traffic through the West Rose Street crossing is 9,929 vehicles, including 21 percent commercial motor vehicle traffic and 52 school buses. The posted vehicle speed limit is 30 miles per hour.
- 5 WATCO maintains one mainline track at this location. Average daily train traffic is less than one train and no passenger trains use the crossing. The authorized speed is 10 miles per hour for freight trains.

- 6 The City proposes to install five to six foot wide sidewalks on both sides of the roadway. Concrete crossing panels will be added to the existing crossing surface on both ends which will extend the length of the crossing to accommodate pedestrian use. The city will be installing sidewalks which will lead up to the crossing and direct the pedestrian behind the signal masts. The city will be responsible for long term maintenance of the sidewalks and the Respondent will be responsible for the pedestrian crossing surface. On the south side of the crossing, the switch points will be relocated further to the south to accommodate the pedestrian upgrade.
- 7 The proposed installation of sidewalks and concrete crossing panels are in the interest of improving safety for pedestrian users by providing a path to safely cross the railroad-highway grade crossing. Staff recommends that the petition be granted.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8 (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.*
- 9 (2) The West Rose Street grade crossing, identified as USDOT #808488E, is a public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington.
- 10 (3) 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 (4) Commission Staff investigated the petition and recommended that it be granted.
- 12 (5) After examination of the petition filed by the City of Walla Walla on February 2, 2011, giving consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission grants the petition.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 13 The petition of the City of Walla Walla to install sidewalks and extend the crossing surface at the crossing located at the intersection of West Rose Street and Union Pacific

Railroad and WATCO's tracks in Walla Walla is granted. Approval of the petition is subject to the following conditions:

- (1) The modifications must conform to those described in the petition.
- (2) Petitioner must notify Commission Staff within 30 days upon completion of this project.

The Commissioners, having determined that this filing complies with the requirements of WAC 480-62-150(1) (g) and RCW 81.53.030, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective February 15, 2011.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER, Executive Director and Secretary

NOTICE: This is an order delegated to the Secretary for decision. In addition to serving you a copy of the decision, the Commission will post on its Internet Web site for at least fourteen (14) days a listing of all matters delegated to the Secretary for decision. You may seek Commission review of this decision. You must file a request for Commission review of this order no later than fourteen (14) days after the date the decision is posted on the Commission's Web site. The Commission will schedule your request for review for consideration at a regularly scheduled open meeting. The Commission will notify you of the time and place of the open meeting at which the Commission will review the order.

The Commission will grant a late-filed request for review only on a showing of good cause, including a satisfactory explanation of why the person did not timely file the request. A form for late-filed requests is available on the Commission's Web site.

This notice and review process is pursuant to the provisions of RCW 80.01.030 and WAC 480-07-904(2) and (3).