

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON STATE
DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION,

Petitioner,

CENTRAL PUGET SOUND
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION
AUTHORITY (SOUND TRANSIT),
BNSF RAILWAY CO., TACOMA
RAIL, CITY OF LAKEWOOD,

Respondents.

DOCKET TR-150624

ORDER 02

ORDER GRANTING EXTENSION OF
TIME TO COMPLY WITH
CONDITIONS

USDOT: 085828M

BACKGROUND

- 1 On July 2, 2015, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission), approved a petition by the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) seeking approval to modify a railroad-highway grade crossing and interconnect the railroad signals with existing traffic signals. The crossing is identified as USDOT 085828M, located at the intersection of North Thorne Lane SW in Lakewood, and is part of the Point Defiance Bypass project.
- 2 The approved crossing signal modifications included a new highway ramp meter interconnected to the railroad signals. This interconnection will send a preemption signal from the railroad bungalow to the ramp meter, triggering the ramp meter to change operation to green or dark when activated. The interconnection will minimize the possibility of vehicle traffic backing up over the crossing from the highway ramp.
- 3 As a condition of approving the crossing signal modifications, the Commission required WSDOT to report to the Commission annually, for a period of three years, about the number of queuing instances over the crossing, and the impacts and effectiveness of the interconnection between the railroad signals and the ramp meter. The reporting period was to begin within ten days of the anniversary date of Order 01 (by July 12, 2016); however, as of that date, service on the new Point Defiance Bypass route had not yet begun. WSDOT advised Commission staff that the Point Defiance Bypass expanded passenger rail service will begin December 18, 2017; therefore, the start date of the annual reporting requirement should be amended.

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 North Thorne Lane SW grade crossing, identified as USDOT 085828M, is a public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington.
- 6 (3) RCW 81.53.261 and WAC 480-62-150 require that the Commission grant approval prior to modifying a public railroad-highway grade crossing or upgrading active crossing warning signals or devices within the state of Washington.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 1 The Washington State Department of Transportation will, for a period of three years, provide an annual report to the Commission, beginning January 31, 2019. At a minimum, the annual report will contain information about the number of queuing instances over the North Thorne Lane SW crossing during the previous year, and an analysis of the impacts and effectiveness of the interconnection between the railroad signals and the ramp meter. Subsequent reports are due January 31, 2020, and January 31, 2021.
- 2 The Secretary of the Commission has delegated authority over this matter pursuant to Order 01 in Docket A-151775. The Secretary finds this Order to be consistent with the public interest.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective December 6, 2017.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION



STEVEN V. KING, 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 website 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 website. 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 website.

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