BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

PORT OF OLYMPIA,)	DOCKET TR-061137
)	
Petitioner,)	ORDER 01
)	
V.)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
)	UPGRADE RAILROAD WARNING
CITY OF OLYMPIA,)	DEVICES AT THE MARKET STREET
)	RAILROAD-HIGHWAY
Respondent)	GRADECROSSING
)	
)	USDOT: 917917F
)	UTC: 19BSG7.5 500.00
CITY OF OLYMPIA,)))))))))))))))))))))))))))))))))))))))	UPGRADE RAILROAD WARNING DEVICES AT THE MARKET STREE RAILROAD-HIGHWAY GRADECROSSING USDOT: 917917F

BACKGROUND

- I On July 3, 2006, the Port of Olympia (Port) filed a petition with the Commission seeking approval to upgrade warning devices at a railroad-highway grade crossing. The Port filed a revised petition on August 30, 2006, and a second revised petition on November 1, 2006. The crossing is located at Market Street and Respondent's tracks in Olympia, Washington. The Tri-City and Olympia Railroad operates on the line. The Port will pay for a portion of the cost of the upgrades and the remaining amount will be paid by state supplemental funding.
- 2 The city of Olympia consented to entry of an Order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.
- In the vicinity of the crossing, Market Street is a two-lane urban minor arterial with a speed limit of 25 mph. Average daily traffic through the crossing is estimated at 4,150 vehicles, including commercial motor vehicles. Sight distance at the crossing is obstructed for both east and westbound motorists and pedestrians by the presence of a building, vegetation and fencing.
- 4 Tri-City and Olympia Railroad maintains one branch line and two siding tracks through the crossing. Average daily train traffic includes 10 freight trains, traveling at a maximum speed of 5 miles per hour.
- 5 Warning devices at the crossing consist of crossbucks, advanced warning signs and pavement markings. The Petitioner seeks to install cantilever-mounted flashing light

signals with two-quadrant gates and three-track train detection circuitry with motion sensors. The proposed upgrades are in the interest of improving safety for roadway and pedestrian users.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6 (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*.
- 7 (2) The Market Street crossing, identified as USDOT 917917F is a public railroadhighway grade crossing within the state of Washington.
- 8 (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.
- 9 (4) Commission Staff investigated the petition and recommended that it be granted.
- 10 (5) After examination of the petition filed by the Port of Olympia on July 3, 2006, and giving consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission grants the petition.

O R D E R

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 11 The petition of the Port of Olympia to modify warning devices at a railroad-highway grade crossing, located at Market Street and the respondent's tracks in Olympia, Washington, 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 modifications authorized herein, 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 specified herein.

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 December 6, 2006.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Executive Secretary