

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

TOWN OF OAKESDALE,	)	DOCKET TR-110638
	)	
Petitioner,	)	ORDER 01
	)	
v.	)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION FOR
	)	PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS AT
WASHINGTON AND IDAHO	)	STATE ROUTE 27/FIRST STREET
RAILWAY and WASHINGTON	)	CROSSING IN OAKESDALE
STATE DEPARTMENT OF	)	
TRANSPORTATION,	)	USDOT: 058582G
	)	
Respondents.	)	
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On April 8, 2011, the Town of Oakesdale (Petitioner) filed a petition with the Commission, seeking approval to install sidewalks at a railroad-highway grade crossing. The crossing is identified as USDOT 058582G and located at the intersection of State Route 27/First Street (First Street) and the Respondents' tracks in Oakesdale, Washington.
  
- 2 Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) owns the track and the Washington and Idaho Railway operate on the line. WSDOT and Washington and Idaho Railway, Respondents, consented to entry of an Order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.
  
- 3 Railroad warning devices at the First Street grade crossing consist of shoulder mounted flashing lights and cross-bucks. The Petitioner proposes to install pedestrian sidewalks at the crossing, which will be located approximately 10 feet from the vehicle crossing. The sidewalks leading up to crossing will be concrete. The crossing surface over the tracks will be 33 feet long and be made of asphalt. The installation of sidewalks will replace a dirt walkway and provide pedestrians a smooth walking surface to cross the tracks. The Petitioner proposes to install cross-bucks, pavement markings and advance warning signs on both approaches to the pedestrian crossing. Given the location of the signal mast, pedestrian users can also rely on the active warning devices to determine when a train is approaching the crossing.

4 First Street is a two-lane roadway with a posted speed limit of 35 miles per hour. Average daily vehicle traffic through the crossing is estimated at less than 1,000 vehicles which includes four school buses. During the peak months of January through March, up to one freight train per day operates at 10 miles per hour over the single track crossing.

5 The proposed sidewalks are in the interest of improving safety for pedestrian users. The sidewalks will ensure that pedestrians have a designated path to safely cross the grade crossing. In addition to the warning devices proposed by the Petitioner, staff recommends that flangeway filler be installed in the flanges to reduce the possibility of any objects getting caught in the flangeway of the crossing.

### **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 State Route 27/First Street grade crossing, identified as USDOT 058582G is a public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington.

8 (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.

9 (4) Commission Staff investigated the petition and recommended that it be granted.

10 (5) After examination of the petition filed by the Town of Oakesdale on April 8, 2011, and giving consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission grants the petition.

### **ORDER**

#### **THE COMMISSION ORDERS:**

11 The petition of the Town of Oakesdale to install sidewalks at a railroad-highway grade crossing, located at the intersection of State Route 27/First Street and Washington and Idaho Railway's tracks in Oakesdale, Washington, is granted. Approval of the petition is subject to the following conditions:

- (1) The modifications must conform to those described in the petition.
- (2) Install flangeway filler the entire length of the crossing.
- (3) Traffic control devices must comply with all applicable standards specified in the 2009 U.S. Department of Transportation *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.
- (4) Upon completion of the sidewalks authorized herein, petitioner must notify the Commission within 60 days. 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 WAC 480-62-150(1) (g) and RCW 81.53.030, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective June 1, 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).