

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of

WASHINGTON STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION,

Petitioner,

BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY,

Respondent.

DOCKET TR-190507

ORDER 01

GRANTING PETITION TO MODIFY  
WARNING DEVICES AT A PUBLIC  
HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE CROSSING  
AT FERRY STREET AT STATE  
ROUTE 20 IN SEDRO WOOLLEY

USDOT: 085008P

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On June 17, 2019, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT or Petitioner) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a petition seeking approval to modify warning devices at a railroad-highway grade crossing located at Ferry Street at State Route 20 (SR-20), identified as USDOT 085008P.
- 2 Respondent BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) consented to entry of an Order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.
- 3 Ferry Street is a three-lane road with a posted vehicle speed limit of 25 miles per hour. Average annual daily traffic through the crossing is estimated at 14,000 vehicles. Ferry Street is part of an established school bus route with 10 school buses traveling over the crossing daily. Ferry Street is also part of an established truck route with approximately 10 percent commercial vehicle traffic.
- 4 Warning devices at the Ferry Street crossing consist of advance warning signs, crossbucks, and cantilever-mounted flashing lights. BNSF operates four freight trains per week over this main line track crossing at 10 miles per hour. No passenger trains travel over the crossing.
- 5 As part of this project, all existing crossing warning lights will be upgraded to LEDs. WSDOT will install “Do Not Stop on Tracks” signs on the northbound approach toward SR-20. WSDOT will also install blank-out signs or additional arrow signals to control left

turns toward the tracks from west-bound traffic on SR-20. These improvements are funded by the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Railway-Highway Crossings (Section 130) program.

- 6 Commission staff (Staff) investigated the petition and recommends that it be granted subject to the following conditions: (1) the modifications must conform to those described in and attached to 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 (MUTCD), and (3) upon completion of the modifications authorized herein, WSDOT must notify the Commission within 60 days. Acceptance of the changes is subject to inspection by Staff, verifying that the crossing is in full compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and the conditions specified herein.

#### DISCUSSION

- 7 RCW 81.53.261 requires that the Commission grant approval prior to modifying a public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington. We find that the proposed modifications will improve overall safety for roadway users. Accordingly, the Commission grants the petition subject to the conditions that Staff recommends.

#### FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington having jurisdiction over public railroad-highway grade crossings within the state of Washington.
- 9 (2) The State Street grade crossing, identified as USDOT 085008P, is a public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington.
- 10 (3) RCW 81.53.261 requires that the Commission grant approval prior to modifying a public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington. See also 480-62-150.
- 11 (4) Staff investigated the petition and recommends that it be granted with the conditions set out in paragraph 6, above.
- 12 (5) After examination of the petition filed by WSDOT on June 17, 2019, and giving consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission grants the petition.

**ORDER**

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS:**

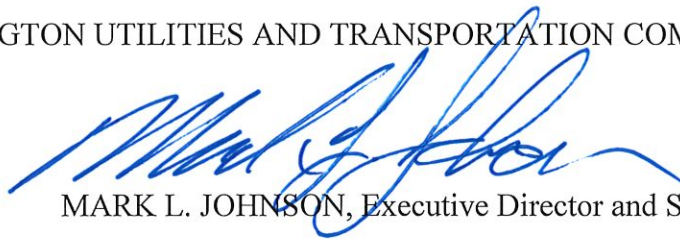
13 WSDOT's petition to modify a railroad-highway grade crossing located at Ferry Street at SR-20 is granted. Approval of the petition is subject to the following conditions:

- (1) The modifications must conform to those described in and attached to the petition.
- (2) Traffic control devices must comply with all applicable standards specified in the MUTCD.
- (3) Upon completion of the modifications authorized herein, WSDOT must notify the Commission within 60 days. Acceptance of the changes is subject to inspection by Staff, verifying that the crossing is in full compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and the conditions specified herein.

The Secretary of the Commission has delegated authority over this matter pursuant to Order 01 in Docket A-180762. The Secretary finds this Order to be consistent with the public interest.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective July 1, 2019.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION



MARK L. JOHNSON, Executive Director and Secretary

**NOTICE TO PARTIES: This is an order delegated to the Executive Secretary for decision. As authorized in WAC 480-07-904(3), you must file any request for Commission review of this order no later than 14 days after the date the decision is posted on the Commission's website.**

