

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

In the Matter of the Petition of)	DOCKET TR-082212
)	
CITY OF PULLMAN,)	ORDER 01
)	
Petitioner.)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
)	CONSTRUCT A PEDESTRIAN AT-
v.)	GRADE RAIL CROSSING AT
)	JOHNSON AVENUE IN PULLMAN,
WASHINGTON AND IDAHO)	WASHINGTON
RAILWAY and WASHINGTON)	
STATE DEPARTMENT OF)	
TRANSPORTATION,)	
)	
Respondents.)	PROPOSED USDOT: 922994R
)	PROPOSED UTC: 52C77.10
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On December 11, 2008, the City of Pullman (City or Petitioner) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a petition seeking approval to construct a pedestrian at-grade crossing at Johnson Avenue in Pullman, Washington. It will be located at the intersection of the Johnson Avenue bicycle and pedestrian path and the tracks of the Washington and Idaho Railway.
- 2 The decision to construct a crossing at this location provides a number of benefits. It extends the recreational trail along the South Fork Palouse River, improves pedestrian access to a low-cost housing development at the south edge of Pullman, provides future pedestrian and bicycle access between Washington State University and the business and medical facilities on Bishop Boulevard, and to the South Pullman Bypass Highway that includes dedicated bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Also as part of the construction of this new at-grade pedestrian crossing, a nearby illegal pedestrian crossing will be removed by the City.
- 3 The Johnson Avenue pedestrian crossing will intersect the railroad tracks at-grade. The City does not propose to install active warning devices because of the slow moving train traffic at the crossing and unobstructed sight distance. The crossing will be protected by cross bucks, a yield sign and a stop line. The stop line will instruct users to stand behind the line if a train is nearby. The City will post the crossing emergency number at the

crossing and a sign that instructs pedestrians to look both ways before crossing. The crossing and ten feet of the approach from both directions will be paved with asphalt.

4 Approximately two freight trains per week travel the tracks at up to ten miles per hour. No passenger trains operate on these tracks.

5 There are two Respondents for this matter, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is the owner of the tracks and the Washington and Idaho Railway is the operator. On January 21, 2009, the Washington and Idaho Railway consented to entry of an Order by the Commission without further notice or hearing. On February 25, 2009, WSDOT consented to entry of an Order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.

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. *RCW 81.53*

7 (2) The proposed pedestrian crossing at Johnson Avenue is a public railroad-highway crossing within the state of Washington.

8 (3) *RCW 81.53.030* requires that the Commission grant approval prior to the construction of public railroad-highway grade crossings within the state of Washington.

9 (4) Commission Staff investigated the petition and recommended that it be granted, subject to the following conditions:

- In addition to the cross bucks and on the same sign post, the City must install a standard “yield” sign
- The City must install a stop line on both approaches to the crossing.
- The City must install emergency notification sign I-13 or I-13a to provide emergency notification information.
- The City must install look sign R-15 to provide a reminder to users to look both ways before entering the crossing.

- 10 (5) This filing complies with the requirements of WAC 480-62-150, RCW 81.53.030 and RCW 81.53.271.
- 11 (6) After reviewing the petition filed on December 11, 2008, and giving due consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission grants the petition.

O R D E R

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 12 The City of Pullman's petition to construct a pedestrian at-grade crossing, located at Johnson Avenue and over Washington and Idaho Railway tracks is granted, subject to the following conditions:
- (1) In addition to the cross bucks and on the same sign post, the City must install a standard "yield" sign
 - (2) The City must install a stop line on both approaches to the crossing.
 - (3) The City must install emergency notification sign I-13 or I-13a to provide emergency notification information.
 - (4) The City must install look sign R-15 to provide a reminder to users to look both ways before entering the crossing.
 - (5) The Petitioner must notify the Commission upon completion of the construction. The crossing is subject to inspection by Commission Staff, to verify that it is in full compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

The Commissioners have delegated authority to the Secretary to enter this Order pursuant to [RCW 80.01.030](#) and [WAC 480-07-904\(\(1\)\(a\)\)](#).

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective March 12, 2009.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER, Executive Director and Secretary