

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

CITY OF MOSES LAKE,	)	DOCKET NO. TR-150557
	)	
Petitioner,	)	ORDER 01
	)	
vs.	)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION FOR
	)	PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS AT
COLUMBIA BASIN RAILROAD,	)	THE STRATFORD ROAD RAILROAD
	)	CROSSING IN MOSES LAKE
Respondents.	)	
	)	
.....	)	USDOT: 396986W

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On April 3, 2015, the City of Moses Lake (City or Petitioner) filed a petition with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) seeking approval to install a sidewalk at a railroad-highway grade crossing. The crossing is identified as USDOT 396986W and is located at Stratford Road and Columbia Basin Railroad's (Columbia Basin) tracks in the city of Moses Lake in Grant County.
- 2 The City previously applied for funding for this project on September 26, 2014, in Docket TR-143567. On November 25, 2014, the Commission entered an order granting the City a \$20,000 disbursement from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund (GCPF). On March 25, 2015, the City submitted a letter requesting to withdraw its petition for GCPF funds due to project delays. The timing of the sidewalk construction could not occur before the required GCPF project completion date of June 1, 2015. The Commission rescinded its grant award on April 6, 2015.
- 3 Columbia Basin owns the tracks. Currently no trains operate over the crossing because the tracks are out of service. Columbia Basin has no plans to reinstate service in the short term. Columbia Basin consented to entry of an Order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.
- 4 Railroad warning devices at the Stratford Road crossing consist of cantilever-mounted lights, crossbucks, advance warning signs, and pavement markings. The City proposes to install a five-foot-wide pedestrian concrete sidewalk on the west side of

Stratford Road, adjacent to the back of the existing curb, between State Route 17 and Maple Drive. The installation of the sidewalk will replace a dirt and gravel pathway and provide pedestrians with a designated crossing path, free from obstructions, to cross the tracks.

5 Stratford Road is a four-lane roadway with a posted speed limit of 30 miles per hour. Average daily vehicle traffic through the crossing is estimated at 7,556 vehicles, which includes up to 10 percent commercial motor vehicle traffic per day. Thirty-six school buses travel over this crossing daily and in addition, Long View Elementary is located near the crossing. Many students that attend Long View Elementary walk to school along Stratford Road.

6 The total cost of this project is \$377,381. Multiple sources will contribute to the funding, including the Washington Transportation Improvement Board (TIB), which will provide \$283,036. The TIB funds high-priority transportation projects in communities throughout the state to enhance the movement of people, goods and services. The City will contribute \$22,028, Grant County will contribute \$37,317 and the Grant Transit Authority will contribute \$15,000.

7 The proposed sidewalk is in the interest of improving safety for pedestrian users, especially local school children. Staff recommends granting the City's petition subject to the following conditions:

- Expenditure from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must not exceed \$20,000.
- Payment will be made upon presentation of claim for reimbursement for materials and labor, and verification by Commission Staff that the work has been satisfactorily completed.
- The City of Moses Lake must sign and return the attached project agreement.
- The project must be completed no later than December 1, 2015.
- The modifications must conform to those described in the petition.

- Traffic control devices must comply with all applicable standards specified in the 2009 U.S. Department of Transportation Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.
- Upon completion of the sidewalk authorized herein, the City 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.

### FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8 (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.*
- 9 (2) The Stratford Road grade crossing, identified as USDOT 396986W, is a public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington.
- 10 (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.
- 11 (4) Commission Staff investigated the petition and recommended that it be granted.
- 12 (5) After examination of the petition filed by the City of Moses Lake on April 3, 2015, and giving consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission grants the petition.

### ORDER

#### THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 13 The petition of the City of Moses Lake to install sidewalks at a railroad-highway grade crossing, located at the intersection of Stratford Road and Columbia Basin

Railroad's tracks in the city of Moses Lake, Washington, is granted. Approval of the petition is subject to the following conditions:

- (1) Expenditure from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must not exceed \$20,000.
- (2) Payment will be made upon presentation of claim for reimbursement for materials and labor, and verification by Commission Staff that the work has been satisfactorily completed.
- (3) The City of Moses Lake must sign and return the attached project agreement.
- (4) The project must be completed no later than December 1, 2015.
- (5) The modifications must conform to those described in the petition.
- (6) Traffic control devices must comply with all applicable standards specified in the 2009 U.S. Department of Transportation *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.
- (7) Upon completion of the sidewalks authorized herein, the City 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 Secretary of the Commission has delegated authority over this matter pursuant to Order 03 in Docket A-090485. The Secretary finds this Order to be consistent with the public interest.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective August 4, 2015.

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 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).