

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

In The Matter of the Petition of	)	DOCKET TR-060297
)	
TRI-CITY & OLYMPIA RAILROAD	)	ORDER 01
)	
	)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
	)	UPGRADE SIGNALS AND
Petitioner,	)	AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE
	)	FROM THE GRADE CROSSING
	)	PROTECTIVE FUND
)	
Seeking approval to upgrade signals at)	
a railroad-highway grade crossing	)	USDOT: 310401F
.....	)	WUTC: 19A38.50

BACKGROUND

- 1 On February 21, 2006, Tri-City and Olympia Railroad filed a petition with the Commission, seeking approval to upgrade signals at a railroad-highway grade crossing. The Tri-City and Olympia Railroad filed a revised petition on November 29, 2006. The crossing is identified as USDOT 310401F and located at SR-240 and the petitioner's tracks in Benton County, Washington. The petitioner further requests the Commission to authorize expenditure from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund to pay for approximately half the cost of the project. The Washington state Department of Transportation has committed to paying for the remaining cost of the upgrades.

- 2 Railroad warning devices at the SR-240 grade crossing consist of 12" shoulder-mounted flashing lights with gates. The petitioner proposes to install 12" LED flashing lights and walk-out cantilevers, a stick release timer, power off indicator light, back-up battery, and a battery charger. The upgrades will improve the warning system by providing motorists improved visibility of the flashing lights. The power off indicator light will alert railroad personnel in the event of a power failure and the stick release timer will protect against activation failures in the event of a directional stick lock-up.

- 3 Petitioner requests that \$20,000 from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund monies be allocated to pay toward the cost of the upgrades. The total cost of the project is \$39,621. The Washington state Department of Transportation will pay for the remaining cost of the upgrades and provide the cantilevers. An expenditure of \$20,000 is available from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund to pay for the improvements.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4 (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.*
- 5 (2) The SR-240 grade crossing, identified as USDOT 310401F, is a public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington.
- 6 (3) WAC 480-62-150 (2)(a) requires that the Commission grant approval prior to any changes to signals at public railroad-highway grade crossings within the state of Washington.
- 7 (4) RCW 81.53.271 allows the Commission to disburse up to \$20,000 from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund to pay for the installation of grade crossing protective devices.
- 8 (6) Commission Staff investigated the petition and recommended that it be granted, subject to specified conditions.
- 9 (7) After examination of the petition filed by the Tri-City and Olympia Railroad on February 21, 2006, and giving consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission grants the petition and the request for disbursement of funds.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 10 The petition of the Tri-City and Olympia Railroad to upgrade signals at a railroad-highway grade crossing, located at the intersection of SR-240 and the petitioner's tracks in Benton County, Washington, is granted. The cost of these upgrades shall be paid from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund, with a cost share from the Washington state Department of Transportation. Approval of the petition is subject to the following conditions:

- (1) Expenditure from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must not exceed \$20,000.
- (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) Payment will be made upon presentation of claim for reimbursement for costs incurred and verification by Commission staff that the work has been satisfactorily completed.
- (4) The project must be completed no later than June 30, 2007

The Commissioners, having determined that this filing complies with the requirements of WAC 480-62-150, RCW 81.53.030, and RCW 81.53.271 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