

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of	DOCKET TR-240448
CITY OF RENTON,	ORDER 01
Petitioner,	
BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY,	GRANTING PETITION TO CONSTRUCT A RAILROAD- HIGHWAY GRADE CROSSING AT PARK AVENUE NORTH, RENTON, KING COUNTY
Respondent.	
	USDOT: 979302J

BACKGROUND

- 1 On June 13, 2024, the City of Renton (City or Petitioner), filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a petition (Petition) seeking approval to construct railroad-highway grade crossing, identified as USDOT 979302J, at the intersection of a new extension of Park Avenue North and the BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) industrial lead track serving the Boeing plant in Renton, King County.
- 2 Respondent BNSF consented to entry of an Order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.
- 3 The City intends to extend Park Avenue North from its intersection with Logan Avenue and Southport Drive across 757th Avenue and the BNSF Boeing industrial lead to provide a second point of access to Southpoint, a mixed-use development on the southern shore of Lake Washington. Park Avenue North will consist of one northbound and two southbound lanes and will have a posted vehicle speed limit of 25 miles per hour. Average annual daily traffic on the roadway is estimated at 1,600 vehicles. Park Avenue North will not be part of either an established truck route or school bus route.
- 4 In its Petition, the City states that creation of a second point of access to Southport at Park Avenue North will improve emergency vehicle response times and relieve general congestion on Lake Washington Boulevard North.
- 5 At the new crossing, the City intends to install advance warning signs, pavement markings, sidewalks with detectable warning surfaces, crossbucks, mast-mounted LED warning lights in the northwest and southeast quadrants and on the median north of the

crossing, vehicle gates, raised medians on both approaches, a pre-signal for southbound traffic at the crossing, a railroad signal house, and advance preemption train detection. The crossing signal system will be interconnected with the traffic signal at the intersection of Park Avenue and Logan Avenue with 25 seconds of advance preemption time.

6 BNSF operates up to 12 trains per week at this location at up to 10 miles per hour. No passenger trains operate in this area.

7 According to the Petition, the parties have reached an agreement related to apportionment of maintenance costs.

8 Commission Staff (Staff) has investigated the Petition and recommends that it be granted subject to the following conditions: (1) the project must conform to the description in the Petition, (2) the City must complete the proposed project within five years, and (3) upon completion of the project authorized herein, the City must notify the Commission within 60 days. Acceptance is subject to inspection by Staff, verifying that the crossing is in full compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and the conditions specified herein.

DISCUSSION

9 RCW 81.53.060 requires that the Commission grant approval prior to construction of a public crossing within the state of Washington. We find that the proposed crossing will improve overall public safety, mobility, and convenience for roadway users. Accordingly, the Commission grants the Petition subject to the conditions that Staff recommends.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

10 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington having jurisdiction over public crossings within the state of Washington.

11 (2) Once constructed, the Park Avenue North crossing, identified as USDOT 979302J, will be considered a public crossing within the state of Washington.

12 (3) RCW 81.53.060 requires that the Commission grant approval prior to establishing a public crossing within the state of Washington. See also WAC 480-62-150.

13 (4) Staff investigated the Petition and recommends that it be granted with the conditions set out in paragraph 8, above.

- 14 (5) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on June 27, 2023.
- 15 (6) After review of the Petition filed by the City on June 13, 2024, and giving consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission grants the Petition subject to the conditions noted in paragraph 8 of this Order.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

16 The City of Renton's Petition to construct a public railroad-highway grade crossing located at the intersection of a new extension of Park Avenue North and the BNSF industrial lead track serving the Boeing plant in Renton, King County, identified as USDOT 979302J, is granted. Approval of the Petition is subject to the following conditions:

- (1) The project must conform to the description in the Petition.
- (2) The City of Renton must complete the proposed modifications within five years.
- (3) Upon completion of the project authorized herein, the City of Renton must notify the Commission within 60 days. Acceptance is subject to inspection by Staff, verifying that the crossing is in full compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and the conditions specified herein.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective June 27, 2024.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

JEFF KILLIP
Executive Director and Secretary