

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

CITY OF CENTRALIA,)	DOCKET TR-070472
)	
Petitioner,)	ORDER 01
)	
v.)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION FOR
)	INTERCONNECTION OF RAILROAD
PUGET SOUND AND PACIFIC)	WARNING SIGNALS AND TRAFFIC
RAILROAD AND)	SIGNALS AT HARRISON AVENUE
UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD,)	
)	
Respondents.)	USDOT: 808548L
)	UTC: 40D3.20
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On March 8, 2007, the city of Centralia (city) filed a petition with the Commission seeking approval to interconnect a traffic signal located at the intersection of Harrison Avenue, Galvin Road and Reynolds Avenue with the railroad crossing signal located on Harrison Avenue. The interconnection of the traffic signal and railroad warning devices is part of a project involving upgrading the existing pre-timed traffic signal to an actuated traffic signal. The crossing is located at the north leg of Harrison Avenue and Puget Sound and Pacific Railroad (Puget Sound and Pacific) tracks in the city of Centralia.
- 2 Puget Sound and Pacific operates on the tracks that cross the Harrison Avenue crossing, however the tracks are owned by Union Pacific Railroad. Both Puget Sound and Pacific and Union Pacific Railroad have consented to an entry of an Order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.
- 3 Average daily vehicle traffic over the crossing is estimated at 6,140, which includes 368 trucks. Average daily train traffic is two trains per day, traveling between 30 to 40 miles per hour. No passenger trains use the tracks at this crossing.
- 4 Current warning devices at the crossing include cantilever-mounted signals and shoulder mounted gates. The city will not make any changes to the signals or gates.

5 The city plans to install a new actuated traffic signal at the intersection of Harrison Avenue, Galvin Road and Reynolds Avenue and requests interconnection of this new traffic signal with the existing railroad signals.

6 The proposed upgrades are in the interest of improving safety for roadway users. The proposed interconnection of the new traffic signal and the railroad crossing signals will ensure that all vehicles will clear the tracks when trains approach.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

7 (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 RCW 81.53.*

8 (2) The Harrison Avenue crossing, identified as USDOT 808548L is a public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington.

9 (3) RCW 81.53.261 requires that the Commission grant approval prior to making changes in the method and manner of traffic control at public railroad-highway grade crossings within the state of Washington.

10 (5) Commission Staff investigated the petition and recommended that it be granted.

11 (6) After examination of the petition filed by the city of Centralia on March 8, 2007, and giving consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission grants the petition.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

12 The petition of the city of Centralia to modify warning devices at a railroad-highway grade crossing, located at Harrison Avenue and the respondent's tracks in the city of Centralia, is granted, as follows:

(1) The modifications must conform to those described in 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*.
- (3) Traffic control devices and instrument housing must be installed in such a manner as to provide required clearances from both the roadway and railroad tracks.
- (4) Upon completion of the authorized modifications, Petitioner must notify the Commission. 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 as specified in this order.

The Commissioners, having determined that this filing complies with the requirements of RCW 81.53.261, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington and effective May 7, 2007.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Executive Secretary