

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

In the Matter of the Petition of)	DOCKET TR-070591
)	
CITY OF PUYALLUP,)	ORDER 01
)	
Petitioner.)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
)	CONSTRUCT A PUBLIC HIGHWAY-
)	RAIL GRADE CROSSING AT SHAW
)	ROAD
MEEKER SOUTHERN RAILROAD,)	
)	
)	USDOT: 922993J
Respondent.)	UTC: 42A 32.67
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On March 22, 2007, the City of Puyallup (City or Petitioner) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a petition seeking approval to construct a public highway-rail grade crossing at Shaw Road. The crossing is identified as USDOT 922993J and will be located at the intersection of Shaw Road and the Meeker Southern Railroad's (Railroad's) tracks in the city of Puyallup.

- 2 The decision to construct a public highway-rail grade crossing at this location results from a larger roadway expansion project by the city of Puyallup. The intent of the roadway project is to extend Shaw Road from Pioneer Way East to a new intersection at Main Street. Shaw Road currently terminates at the intersection of Pioneer Way East at the eastern edge of Puyallup. At this time, northbound vehicles must travel west to the 15th Street Southeast signalized grade crossing. Another aspect of the roadway project, involves grade separating the 15th Street Southeast crossing. The at grade 15th Street Southeast crossing will be replaced with a grade separated crossing. The overall completed project will result in Shaw Road being extended from Pioneer Way East across the new 15th Street Southeast grade separation to the Main Street intersection.

- 3 Shaw Road is a four lane road with two lanes in each direction. The road is classified as an urban major arterial roadway. Average daily vehicle traffic through the crossing is estimated at 20,730. No commercial motor vehicles or school buses use this crossing. The posted vehicle speed is 40 miles per hour.

- 4 There is one main line track at this location. A second siding track will be added to accommodate future needs. Train traffic is four freight trains per day. The maximum train speed at this location is 10 miles per hour. No passenger trains currently operate on this track.
- 5 The proposed crossing will be equipped with cantilever mounted flashing lights and gates. The railroad signals will be interconnected with the new traffic signals and operate in an advance preemption mode when trains approach the crossing. “No Right Turn” and “No Left Turn” blank-out signs will be mounted on the traffic signal bridge and illuminate during preemption to prevent motorists from turning when a train is approaching or occupying the crossing. Restricted turning movements, through the use of blank-out signs will still allow east and westbound traffic on Pioneer Way to proceed during preemption mode. A W10-2 (highway-rail grade crossing advance warning) sign will be installed on the west approach to the Pioneer Way and Shaw Road intersection, warning motorists making a turn that they will encounter a highway-rail grade crossing soon after making a turn.
- 6 Four private crossings will be eliminated as a result of this project and access for residents will be through the new public crossing.
- 7 On December 26, 2008, the Railroad consented to entry of an Order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington having jurisdiction over public highway-rail grade crossings within the state of Washington. [RCW 81.53](#)
- 9 (2) The proposed crossing at Shaw Road, which will be identified as USDOT 922993J, is a public highway-rail grade crossing within the state of Washington.
- 10 (3) [RCW 81.53.030](#) requires that the Commission grant approval prior to the construction of public highway-rail grade crossings within the state of Washington.
- 11 (4) Commission Staff investigated the petition and recommended that it be granted, provided that upon completion of the construction, the Petitioner notify the

Commission. The crossing is subject to inspection by Commission Staff, verifying that it is in full compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

- 12 (5) After reviewing the petition filed on March 22, 2007, and giving due consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission grants the petition.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 13 City of Puyallup's petition to construct a highway-rail grade crossing, located at Shaw Road and Meeker Southern Railroad tracks is granted.
- 14 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 81.53.030](#) and [WAC 480-07-904\(\(1\)\(a\)\)](#).

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective January 29, 2009.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER, Executive Director and Secretary