

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

BURLINGTON NORTHERN SANTA FE RAILROAD COMPANY)	DOCKET NO. TR-020021
)	
Petitioner,)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO UPGRADE WARNING DEVICES AT MCKINLEY ROAD
)	
v.)	
)	D.O.T. 099183W
YAKIMA COUNTY)	
)	
Respondent)	W.U.T.C. 1C 76.70
.....)	

BACKGROUND

1 On January 4, 2002, the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) filed a petition with the Commission, seeking authority to upgrade warning devices at a highway-rail grade crossing. The crossing is located at the intersection of the petitioner's tracks and McKinley Road, in the SW ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 13, Township 11 N, Range 19 E., W.M., in Yakima County, Washington. Funding for the upgrades is pursuant to the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act in cooperation with the Washington State Department of Transportation.

2 Respondent has consented to an entry of an order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.

DISCUSSION

3 McKinley Road, in the vicinity of the crossing, is classified as a rural access road. The roadway consists of one lane for each direction of traffic and a vehicle speed limit of 50 mph. McKinley Road ends approximately 135 north of the grade crossing, where it creates a "T" intersection with North Track Road. Average daily traffic through the crossing is estimated at 113 vehicles, including 6 trucks and 4 school bus trips. Average daily traffic is expected to increase to 158 vehicles by 2020.

4 BNSF maintains one main-line track through the crossing. Daily train traffic includes 6 freight trains per day, operating at a maximum timetable speed of 49 MPH.

5 Warning devices at the crossing include standard Crossbuck signs and Stop signs. Petitioner seeks to upgrade the warning devices through the installation of shoulder-mounted flashing light signals with gates. The upgrades are being proposed in the interest of improving safety for highway users.

6 Commission Staff investigated the petition and recommended that it be granted, subject to specified conditions.

7 This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled open meeting on February 15, 2002. The Commissioners have reviewed the petition and have been advised in the matter. They believe that granting the petition, subject to the conditions set forth below, is in the public interest, and direct the Secretary to issue the Order.

ORDER

8 THE COMMISSION GRANTS the petition of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company to upgrade warning devices at a highway-rail grade crossing, designated as WUTC 1C 76.70 and located at the intersection of McKinley Road and the petitioner's tracks in Yakima County, Washington, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) The upgrades must conform to the plans filed in this proceeding.
- (2) Traffic control devices must comply will 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 for both rail and vehicular traffic.
- (4) Yakima County must remove the Stop signs at the crossing at such time that active warning devices become operational.
- (5) W10-1 Railroad Advance Warning signs must be installed on both approaches to the crossing, in accordance with the provisions of U.S. Department of Transportation *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.
- (6) Upon completion of the installations authorized herein, petitioner must notify the Commission. Acceptance of the installations is subject to a compliance inspection by Commission Staff, verifying that the changes are in full compliance with law, regulation, and the conditions specified herein.

DATED at Olympia, Washington and effective this 15th of February, 2002.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary