

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

SNOHOMISH COUNTY)	
)	DOCKET NO. TR-020383
Petitioner,)	
)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION
v.)	TO UPGRADE WARNING
)	DEVICES AT 292 nd STREET NW
)	(LOGAN ROAD)
THE BURLINGTON NORTHERN SANTA FE RAILWAY COMPANY)	
)	D.O.T. 084713P
Respondent.)	
.....)	W.U.T.C. 2B 56.90

BACKGROUND

- 1 On March 29, 2002, Snohomish County 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 292nd Street NW (also known as Logan Road) and the tracks of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company, in the SW ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 13, Township 32 N, Range 3 E, W.M., in Snohomish County, Washington.

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

DISCUSSION

- 3 292nd Street NW, in the vicinity of the crossing, is classified as a local access road. The roadway consists of one lane for each direction of traffic and a vehicle speed limit of 35 MPH. Average daily traffic through the crossing is estimated to be 200 vehicles. The roadway and tracks intersect at a 90 degree angle, and there are slight ascending grades to the crossing on both roadway approaches. Sight distance down the tracks is restricted for the west-bound approach to the crossing due to the presence of trees and brush in the northeast and southeast quadrants of the crossing.

- 4 Respondent maintains one main track through the crossing. Daily train traffic includes 10 freight trains and two passenger trains operating at maximum timetable speeds of 50 MPH and 79 MPH respectively. Track curves on both sides of the crossing limit visibility of approaching trains to some extent.

- 5 Warning devices at the crossing include Crossbuck signs and Stop signs. Petitioner seeks to upgrade the warning devices at the crossing through the installation of shoulder-mounted flashing light signals and gates. Given the high volumes and

speeds of trains combined with limited sight distance down the tracks for approaching motorists, the upgrades are being proposed in the interest of improving safety for the motoring public.

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 April 24, 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.

O R D E R

8 THE COMMISSION GRANTS the petition of Snohomish County to upgrade warning devices at a highway-rail grade crossing located at the intersection of 292nd Street NW (Logan Road) and the tracks of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company, in Snohomish 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 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 the required clearances for both rail and vehicular traffic.
- (4) Snohomish County must remove the Stop signs at the crossing at such time that active warning devices become operational.
- (5) 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 24th of April, 2002.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary