TR-210764

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CWW LLC Petitioner, vs. Walla Walla County Respondent	DOCKET NO. TR- PETITION TO MODIFY WARNING DEVICES AT A HIGHWAY-RAILROAD GRADE CROSSING AND REQUESTING DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS FROM THE GRADE CROSSING PROTECTIVE FUND USDOT: 810106G

The Petitioner asks the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission to approve modifications to warning devices at a highway-rail grade crossing, and to disburse funds from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund.

Section 1 – Petitioner's Information

CWW LLC
Petitioner

Jared Jungmann
Signature

709 N 10th Ave
Street Address

Walla Walla, WA 99362
City, State and Zip Code

Mailing Address, if different than the street address

Jared Jungmann
Contact Person Name & Signature

509-386-7753 JJ@Columbiarail.com
Contact Phone Number and Email

Section 2 – Respondent's Information

Walla Walla County Public Works
Respondent

990 Navion Ln.
Street Address

Walla Walla, WA 99362
City, State and Zip Code

Mailing Address, if different than the street address

Tony Garcia Morales
Contact Person Name

509-524-2710 tgarcia@co.walla-walla.wa.us
Contact Phone Number and Email

Section 3 – Crossing Location

1. Existing highway/roadway: Last Chance Rd.
2. Existing railroad: CWW
3. USDOT Crossing No.: 810106B
4. GPS location: 46.04474470445181, -118.45089342452476
5. Railroad mile post (nearest tenth): 25.9
6. City: Walla Walla County: Walla Walla

Section 4 – Highway Information

1. Name of highway: Last Chance Rd.

2. Road authority: Walla Walla County

3. Average annual daily traffic (AADT): 704

4. Number of lanes: 2

5. Roadway speed: 50

6. Is the crossing part of an established truck route? ☐ Yes ☑ No

7. If so, trucks are what percent of total daily traffic?

8. Is the crossing part of an established school bus route? ☐ Yes ☑ No

9. If so, how many school buses travel over the crossing each day?

10. Describe any changes to the information in 1 through 9, above, expected within ten years:

None.

11. What is the available sight distance from the stop bar (or 25 feet from the tracks if no stop bar) on both approaches to the crossing?

+400'ft in all directions

12. If the sight distance is less than 400 feet, describe the structures, roadway or track curvature, visual obstacles or other characteristics that limit sight distance.

Section 5 – Railroad Information

1. Railroad company: Columbia Rail

2. Type of railroad at crossing: ☑ Common Carrier ☐ Logging ☐ Industrial ☐ Passenger ☐ Excursion

3. Type of tracks at crossing: ☐ Main Line ☐ Siding or Spur

4. Number of tracks at crossing: 1

5. Average daily train traffic, freight: 1-2

Authorized freight train speed: 20 Operated freight train speed: 15-20

6. Average daily train traffic, passenger: 0

Authorized passenger train speed: Operated passenger train speed:

7. Describe any changes to the information in 1 through 6 above, expected within ten years:

None.

Section 6 – Current Warning Devices

Provide a complete description of the warning devices currently located at the crossing (vehicle and pedestrian), including signs, gates, lights, train detection circuitry, and any other warning devices.

Logic Unit - S2000
Eight 12" LED Roundels
13 nickle cadmium water batteries
Two older style cragg chargers
Two gates with LED lights
One mechanical bell
Two crossbuck signs
Two railroad crossing symbol signs

Section 7 – Description of Proposed Changes

Describe in detail the number and type of proposed automatic signals (vehicle and pedestrian), gates, other warning devices, and/or changes to train detection circuitry. (RCW 81.53.271) Please describe any other proposed changes at the crossing, including changes to the crossing surface, signage, pavement markings, etc. If sidewalks are being installed, please provide information on who will maintain them. Attach additional information sheets, if needed.

Would like to replace both sets of Nickle cadmium water batteries with non-water, maintenance free batteries. The Nickle cadmium batteries are from the 1970's.

Would like to replace both CRAGG chargers. These chargers are from the 1970's.

Main reasons why I'd like to replace all these is I am starting to see failures because of how old everything is and the water batteries are toxic/corrosive.

Section 8 – Illustration of Crossing

Attach a detailed diagram, design drawing, map, or other illustration showing the current and proposed layout of the road, crossing surface, and railway in the vicinity of the crossing, including shoulders, sidewalks, lanes of travel, bike lanes, warning devices, pavement markings and any other applicable crossing conditions.

Section 9 – Traffic Signal Preemption

Are the railroad signals currently interconnected with a traffic signal(s)?

☐ Yes ☑ No

Will this project interconnect railroad signals with a traffic signal(s) or modify the existing traffic signal preemption timing?

☐ Yes ☑ No

If yes, attach documentation supporting the proposed traffic signal preemption timing calculations (e.g., TXDOT Guide for Determining Time Requirements for Traffic Signal Preemption at Highway Rail Grade Crossings or similar preemption worksheet/plan), which must be certified by a professional engineer.

Section 10 – Description of Public Safety Need

Describe and support the public safety need for the proposed changes. (RCW 81.53.261)

If commercial power goes out, the nickle cadmium batteries or chargers could fail before commercial power comes back. This would result in a dead crossing, no lights or gates activating.

Section 11 – Approximate Cost of Installation and Related Work

1. Provide the approximate cost of installation and related work for the proposed changes to signals and/or warning devices: $11,231
2. Provide an itemized breakdown of materials, names of the parties contributing to the project, including labor, and the amount each is contributing:
3. Provide the amount requested from the GCPF grant program (RCW 81.53.271): $11,231

Section 12 – Approximate Cost of Annual Maintenance

Provide the approximate cost of annual maintenance for the signals and/or warning devices (RCW 81.53.271):

$1000/year of maintenance

Section 13 – Cost Apportionment

If the commission directs the installation of or changes to the warning devices requested in this petition, it will apportion installation and maintenance costs in accordance with the applicable statutes. (RCW 81.53.261-295)

Interested parties may instead enter into an agreement providing for the installation of signals or other warning devices or for the apportionment of the cost of installation and maintenance. (RCW 81.53.261) **If the parties to this petition have reached an agreement related to apportionment of costs, please sign here to confirm:**

Petitioner Signature: _____ Respondent Signature: _____

Section 14 – Project Completion Date

Project completion date: 6/30/22

Section 15 – Waiver of Hearing by Respondent

Waiver of Hearing

The undersigned represents the Respondent in the petition to modify highway-rail grade crossing warning devices at the following crossing.

USDOT Crossing No. 810106B

We have investigated the conditions at the crossing. We are satisfied the conditions are the same as described by the Petitioner in this docket. We have reviewed and have no objection to the proposed traffic signal preemption timing calculations as submitted with this petition. We agree the warning devices should be modified and consent to a decision by the commission without a hearing.

Dated at Walla Walla, Washington, on the 1 day of October, 2021.

Tony Garcia Morales
Printed Name of Respondent

Tony Garcia

Signature of Respondent's Representative

Public Works Director
Title

(509) 524-2710
Phone Number

tgarcia@co.walla-walla.wa.us
Email

Walla Walla County Public Works
990 Navion Ln.
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Mailing Address

Checklist prior to submitting petition:

- ✓ Ensure all petition fields are completed.
- ✓ Ensure parties sign Section 13 regarding any Cost Apportionment agreement, if applicable.
- ✓ Obtain signature on Waiver of Hearing (Section 15). *If respondent fails to sign Waiver, advise UTC staff upon submission.*
- ✓ Attach copies of:
    - Illustration of crossing (described in Section 8).
    - Proposed traffic signal preemption timing calculations, if applicable (described in Section 9), and identification or documentation that the calculations are certified by a professional engineer.
    - Any other relevant documents to support the petition, including but not limited to support of public need, project information, etc.

Submitting the petition: To officially file the petition, send the petition form and supporting documents to records@utc.wa.gov.

Questions: For questions, please contact:

Mike Turcott Transportation Planning Specialist mike.turcott@utc.wa.gov (360) 764-0572	**Betty Young** Rail Safety Program Advisor betty.young@utc.wa.gov (360) 292-5470