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SERVICE DATE

JUN 18 1998

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

THE BURLINGTON NORTHERN AND)
SANTA FE RAILWAY CO.)

DOCKET NO. TR-971840

Petitioner,)

ORDER GRANTING PETITION
TO UPGRADE SIGNAL CIRCUITRY
AND AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE
OF GRADE CROSSING PROTECTION
FUNDS

CITY OF BUCODA)

Respondent.)

WUTC 1K 46.60
DOT 085786D

.....)

By petition filed with the Commission on December 24, 1997, The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Co. seeks authority to upgrade the circuitry at a railroad crossing. The location is the highway-railway crossing at grade at the intersection of 6th Street in Bucoda and petitioner's track, designated as WUTC Grade Crossing No. 1K 46.60. Petitioner also requests that 60% of the cost of the upgrade be paid out of the Grade Crossing Protection Fund pursuant to RCW 81.53.271. Petitioner proposes to pay the remaining cost of the upgrade.

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

In the vicinity of the crossing, 6th Street is a two way, two lane road running east and west. The legal posted vehicle speed limit is 25 mph for all vehicles. Approximately one thousand vehicles, including forty trucks and four school buses, use the crossing daily.

Petitioner maintains two main line tracks at the crossing. Voltage fluctuations from an unknown source have interfered with the proper functioning of the signals and gates. Petitioner proposes to install Safetrans 3000 circuitry which will be able to screen out the voltage fluctuations. Fifty four freight trains and four passenger trains use the crossing daily. Legal or operating maximum train speed at the crossing is 70 mph for passenger trains and 60 mph for freight trains.

The Commission staff has investigated the petition and has recommended that the petition be approved. The circuitry upgrade is needed to alleviate a long standing problem.

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Signal circuitry is a critical component of crossing signal systems; thus, apportioning the cost between the railroad and the Grade Crossing Protection Fund is appropriate.

The Commissioners, having reviewed the petition and being fully advised in the matter, believe that granting the petition is in the public interest.

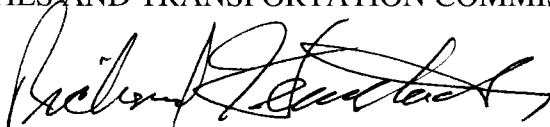
ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS that the petition of The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Co. is granted as follows:

1. Existing signal activation circuitry shall be replaced with Safetrans 3000 circuitry as requested by the railroad.
2. After inspection and approval of the completed circuitry change by commission staff, petitioner shall submit an itemized account of its costs. After approval of such accounting by commission staff, an amount equal to 60% of the account shall be paid to the petitioner from the Grade Crossing Protection Fund.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 18th day of June, 1998.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION



RICHARD HEMSTAD, Commissioner



WILLIAM R. GILLIS, Commissioner