

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

CITY OF BELLEVUE)	
)	DOCKET NO. TR-011197
)	
Petitioner,)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION
)	TO RECONSTRUCT AND
v.)	UPGRADE WARNING DEVICES
)	AT S.E. 5 th STREET
THE BURLINGTON NORTHERN SANTA FE RAILWAY COMPANY)	
)	D.O.T. 091764S
)	
Respondent)	W.U.T.C. 1F 11.60
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On August 29, 2001, the City of Bellevue filed a petition with the Commission, seeking authority to reconstruct a crossing surface and upgrade warning devices at a grade crossing. The crossing is located at the intersection of SE 5th Street and the tracks of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company, in the SW ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 33, Township 25 N, Range 5E, W.M, in Bellevue, Washington.

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

DISCUSSION

- 3 In the vicinity of the crossing, SE 5th Street is classified as an urban local road, with two lanes and a speed limit of 25 mph. Average daily traffic through the crossing is estimated at 2,200 vehicles, including 20 trucks and 6 school bus trips.

- 4 The Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company maintains one main track through the crossing. Daily train traffic averages two passenger trains and two freight trains, traveling at a maximum timetable speed of 25 mph.

- 5 Warning devices at the crossing consist of cantilever-mounted flashing light signals. Petitioner proposes to upgrade the warning system at the crossing through the addition of gates and an extra set of flashing lights that will be positioned towards the east for added visibility for west-bound motorists. In addition to the signal upgrades, the proposal also includes widening the roadway and installing a 48 foot concrete crossing surface. The roadway is being widened to add shoulders on either side, however, the number of lanes will not change. The improvements are proposed in the interest of improving safety for motorists.

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 January 9, 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 City of Bellevue to reconstruct and
upgrade warning devices at the highway-rail grade crossing, located at the
intersection of SE 5th Street and the tracks of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe
Railway Company in Bellevue, 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) All devices must be installed in such a manner, as to provide the required clearances for both rail and vehicular traffic.
- (4) Upon completion of the work authorized herein, the City of Bellevue must notify the Commission. Acceptance of the installations is subject to inspection and report 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 9th of January, 2002.

THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary