

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

BURLINGTON NORTHERN SANTA FE RAILROAD COMPANY)	DOCKET NO. TR-011619
)	
Petitioner,)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO UPGRADE WARNING DEVICES AT WEST NELSON SIDING ROAD
v.)	
)	
KITTITAS COUNTY)	D.O.T. 085164B
)	
Respondent)	W.U.T.C. 1D 35.40
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On December 6, 2001, 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 West Nelson Siding Road, in the NW ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 20, Township 20 N, Range 14 E., W.M., in Kittitas 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 West Nelson Siding Road, in the vicinity of the crossing, is classified as a minor collector road. The roadway consists of one lane for each direction of traffic and a vehicle speed limit of 50 mph. A roadway intersection (I-90 entrance and exit ramps) is located approximately 130 feet north of the grade crossing. Average daily traffic through the crossing is estimated at 362 vehicles, including 6 school bus trips.

- 4 BNSF maintains one main track through the crossing. Average daily train traffic includes 6 freight trains, 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 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 the highway-rail grade crossing
designated as WUTC 1D 35.40, and located at the intersection of West Nelson Siding
Road and the petitioner's tracks in Kittitas 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 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) Stop signs must be removed from the crossing at such time that the 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 15th of February, 2002.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary