

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

CITY OF RAINIER, WASHINGTON	DOCKET NO. TR-020914
Petitioner,	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO UPGRADE WARNING DEVICES AT THE CENTER STREET HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE CROSSING
v.	
TACOMA RAIL	
Respondent	D.O.T. 396735C W.U.T.C. 20H 23.10

BACKGROUND

- 1 On July 17, 2002, the City of Rainier 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 Center Street and the respondent's tracks, in the SE ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 9, Township 16 N., Range 1 E., W.M., in Rainier, Washington.
- 2 Respondent has consented to an entry of an order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.

DISCUSSION

- 3 Center Street, in the vicinity of the crossing, is classified as an arterial roadway. The roadway consists of one lane for each direction of traffic and a vehicle speed limit of 25 mph. Average daily traffic through the crossing is estimated at 3,000 vehicles, including 500 trucks and 12 school bus trips. Sight distance for motorists approaching the tracks is limited due to ascending grades on both approaches to the crossing, and the presence of vegetation in all four quadrants.
- 4 Tacoma Rail maintains one mainline track through the crossing. Daily train traffic includes two freight trains operating at a maximum timetable speed of 20 MPH.
- 5 Warning devices at the crossing include standard crossbuck signs and railroad advance warning signs. Petitioner proposes to upgrade warning devices by installing shoulder-mounted flashing light signals and gates. The installations are being proposed in the interest of improving safety for highway users.

6 Commission Staff investigated the petition and recommend that it be granted, subject
to specified conditions.

7 This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled open
meeting on August 14, 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 Rainier to upgrade warning
devices at a highway-rail grade crossing, designated as WUTC 20H 23.10 and located
at the intersection of Center Street and the tracks of Tacoma Rail, in Rainier,
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) The City of Rainier must install and maintain railroad pavement makings as specified in section 8B-4 of the U.S. Department of Transportation *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.
- (5) Upon completion of the upgrades authorized herein, Petitioner must notify the Commission. Acceptance of the changes is subject to a compliance inspection by Commission Staff, verifying that the crossing is in full compliance with law, regulation, and the conditions specified herein.

DATED at Olympia, Washington and effective this 14th of August, 2002.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary