BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

THE BURLINGTON NORTHERN) DOCKET NO. TR-021368	
SANTA FE RAILWAY COMPANY)	
) ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO)
Petitioner,) UPGRADE WARNING DEVICES A	ľ
) THE PINE STREET HIGHWAY-RA	ΙI
v.) GRADE CROSSING	
)	
BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON) USDOT: 396920W	
)	
Respondent.) WUTC: 2B 96.24	
)	

BACKGROUND

- On October 22, 2002, the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company filed a petition with the Commission to upgrade the warning devices at a highway-rail grade crossing. The crossing is located at the intersection of Pine Street and the petitioner's tracks, in the SE ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 36, Township 37 N., Range 2 E., W.M., in Bellingham, 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 the entry of an order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.

DISCUSSION

In the vicinity of the crossing, Pine Street is classified as a local access road with one lane for each direction of traffic, and a vehicle speed limit of 25 mph. Although the grade crossing is designated as the Pine Street crossing, the west-bound approach to the crossing is identified on city maps as "Wharf Street." Average daily traffic (ADT) through the crossing consists of 644 vehicles, including heavy truck and school bus traffic. ADT is expected to reach 785 by 2012.

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4 Respondent maintains two main tracks through the crossing. Average daily train traffic includes 10 freight trains and 4 passenger trains traveling at a maximum speed of 35 mph.

- Warning devices at the crossing consist of passive devices, including crossbucks and stop signs. Petitioner proposes to upgrade the warning devices at the crossing by installing shoulder-mounted flashing light signals with gates. The upgrades are proposed in the interest of improving safety for roadway users.
- 6 Commission Staff investigated the petition and recommended it be granted, subject to specified conditions.
- This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled open meeting on November 15, 2002. The Commissioners have reviewed the petition and have been advised in the matter. They believe that granting the request is in the public interest, and direct the Secretary to issue the order.

ORDER

- THE COMMISSION GRANTS the petition of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company to upgrade warning devices at a highway-rail grade crossing, designated as USDOT 396920W, 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) Upon completion of the upgrades authorized herein, petitioner must notify the Commission. Acceptance of the changes is subject to an inspection by Commission Staff, verifying that the

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crossing is in full compliance with law, regulation, and the conditions specified herein.

DATED at Olympia, Washington and effective this 15th of November, 2002.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary