

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

THE CITY OF TACOMA,	)	DOCKET NO. TR-021626
	)	
Petitioner,	)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
	)	UPGRADE WARNING DEVICES AT
v.	)	THE LINCOLN AVENUE WEST
	)	RAILROAD-HIGHWAY GRADE
TACOMA RAIL,	)	CROSSING IN TACOMA,
	)	WASHINGTON
Respondent.	)	
	)	USDOT: 396628M
	)	
	)	WUTC: 5BSR147.4 5480
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On December 11, 2002, the City of Tacoma filed a petition with the Commission, seeking authority to upgrade warning devices at a railroad-highway grade crossing. The crossing is located at the intersection of Lincoln Avenue West and the tracks of Tacoma Rail, in the NW ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 3, Township 20 N., Range 3 E., W.M., in Tacoma, 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.
  
- 3 In the vicinity of the crossing, Lincoln Avenue East is classified as an arterial roadway, consisting of one through lane in each direction and a left-turn lane for east-bound traffic. The posted vehicle speed limit on the roadway is 35 mph. Average daily traffic through the crossing is estimated at 6,937 vehicles.
  
- 4 Tacoma Rail maintains two mainline tracks through the crossing. Average daily train traffic includes 20 freight trains operating at a maximum speed of 10 mph.

5 Warning devices at the crossing consist of crossbuck signs. Petitioner proposes  
to upgrade the warning devices by installing cantilever-mounted flashing light  
signals on the east-bound approach to the crossing and shoulder mounted  
flashing light signals on the west-bound approach. Cantilever-mounted signals  
are appropriate on the east-bound approach due to the presence of multiple  
lanes. The upgrades are being proposed in the interest of improving safety for  
highway users.

### FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of  
the State of Washington having jurisdiction over public railroad-highway  
grade crossings within the state of Washington. *Chapter 81.53 RCW.*
- 7 (2) The Lincoln Avenue West grade crossing, designated as USDOT 396628M,  
is a public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of  
Washington.
- 8 (3) RCW 81.53.261 and WAC 480-62-150 require that the Commission grant  
approval prior to modifying or upgrading warning signals and devices at  
a railroad-highway grade crossing.
- 9 (4) Commission Staff investigated the petition and recommended that it be  
granted, subject to specified conditions.
- 10 (5) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled  
meeting on December 31, 2002.
- 11 (6) After examination of the petition filed by the City of Tacoma on  
December 11, 2002, and giving consideration to all relevant matters and  
for good cause shown, the Commission grants the petition.

**ORDER**

## THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 12 The petition of the City of Tacoma for upgrading warning devices at a railroad-highway grade crossing, located at the intersection of Lincoln Avenue West and the tracks of Tacoma Rail, in Tacoma, Washington, is granted, subject to the following conditions:
- (1) All changes and 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) 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 a compliance inspection by Commission Staff, verifying that the crossing is in full compliance with law, regulation, and the conditions specified herein.
- 13 The Commissioners, having determined that this filing complies with the requirements of RCW 81.53.261, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 31<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2002.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary