

OCT 26 2000

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON STATE	)	DOCKET NO. TR-001505
DEPARTMENT OF	)	
TRANSPORTATION	)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO INSTALL
	)	MEDIAN BARRIERS AT 6 <sup>th</sup> Street
Petitioner,	)	IN BUCODA, WASHINGTON
	)	
THE BURLINGTON NORTHERN	)	
SANTA FE RAILROAD	)	DOT: 085786D
COMPANY	)	
	)	WUTC: 1K 46.70
Respondent	)	
.....	)	

BACKGROUND

On October 3, 2000, the Washington State Department of Transportation filed a petition with the Commission, seeking authority to install median barriers at a grade crossing. The crossing is located at the intersection of 6<sup>th</sup> Street and the tracks of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad Company in Bucoda, Washington.

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

DISCUSSION

In the vicinity of the crossing, 6<sup>th</sup> Street is classified as a rural minor collector, consisting of two lanes and a vehicle speed limit of 25 mph. SR-507 is parallel to the BNSF tracks and is located 95 feet to the west. Main Street is also parallel to the BNSF tracks and is located 115 feet to the east. Average daily traffic through the crossing is estimated at 1,399 vehicles.

Respondent maintains two main-line tracks and one siding track through the crossing. Current daily train traffic averages 37 trains, including freight and commuter operations. The maximum timetable speeds for trains in the vicinity is 65 mph for freight trains and 75 mph for passenger trains.

The crossing is currently equipped with flashing light signals and gates. The petitioner proposes to install a raised median barrier on both sides of the crossing, that consists of yellow center-line curbing with flexible guide posts. The curbing will be 12 inches wide, and 3.4 to 4 inches high. On the west side of the crossing, the median barrier will extend 50 feet west down 6<sup>th</sup> street, beginning approximately at the point on the centerline across from the gate arm. On the east side of the crossing, the median

barrier will extend 60 feet east down 6<sup>th</sup> street, also beginning approximately at the point on the centerline across from the gate arm. The installation will deter attempts by motorists to drive around lowered gates upon the approach of a train. This crossing was chosen for median barrier installation due to its "high priority rating" by WSDOT for such installations.

Commission Staff investigated the petition and recommended that the petition be approved, subject to specified conditions.

The Commissioners have reviewed the petition and have been fully 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

THE COMMISSION GRANTS the petition of the Washington State Department of Transportation for the installation of median barriers at the highway-rail grade crossing, located at the intersection of 6<sup>th</sup> street and the tracks of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad Company, in Bucoda, Washington subject to the following conditions:

- 1) Installation of the median barriers must conform to the plans filed in this proceeding.
- 2) All devices must be installed in such a manner as to provide required clearances for both rail and vehicular traffic.
- 3) Upon completion of the installation authorized herein, petitioner must notify the Commission. Acceptance of the installation is subject to a compliance inspection and report by Commission staff, verifying that the grade crossing is in full compliance with law and regulation and the conditions specified herein.

Dated at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 25<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2000.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION



CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary