

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

WASHINGTON STATE	)	DOCKET NO. TR-010768
DEPARTMENT OF	)	
TRANSPORTATION	)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION
	)	TO INSTALL MEDIAN
Petitioner,	)	BARRIERS AT McDUFF ROAD
	)	
BURLINGTON NORTHERN	)	D.O.T. 085780M
SANTA FE RAILWAY COMPANY	)	
	)	W.U.T.C. 1K 41.10
Respondent	)	
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On May 23, 2001, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) filed a petition with the Commission, seeking authority to install median barriers at a highway-rail grade crossing. The crossing is located at the intersection of the respondent's tracks and McDuff Road in Section 7, Township 16, Range 1W, W.M., in Thurston County, Washington.
- 2 Respondent has consented to an entry of an order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.

**DISCUSSION**

- 3 In the vicinity of the crossing, McDuff Road is classified as a rural local road, with one lane for each direction of traffic. The posted vehicle speed limit on McDuff Road is 50 mph, however, an advisory speed of 20 mph is posted on each approach to the crossing. Average daily traffic through the crossing is estimated at 903 vehicles.
- 4 Respondent maintains two main-line tracks through the crossing. Current daily train traffic averages 62 trains, including freight and commuter operations. The maximum allowable speeds for trains through the crossing are 50 mph for freight trains and 79 mph for passenger trains.
- 5 The crossing is currently equipped with flashing light signals and gates. The petitioner proposes to install a raised median barrier on both roadway approaches to the crossing, that consists of yellow center-line curbing with flexible guide posts. The curbing will be 12 inches wide and 3 ½ to 4 inches high. The median barriers will extend 100 feet both west and southeast from the crossing, beginning at a point on the roadway center-line located across from each railroad 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 ranking" by WSDOT for such installations.

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

7 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**

8 THE COMMISSION GRANTS the petition of the Washington State Department of Transportation for the installation of median separators at a highway-rail grade crossing, designated as WUTC 1K 41.10 and located at the intersection of McDuff Road and the tracks of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad Company, in Thurston County, Washington, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) The installations must conform to the plans filed in this proceeding.
- (2) All devices must be installed in such a manner as to provide the required clearances for rail and vehicular traffic.
- (3) Upon completion of the installations 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 13<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2001.

THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary