

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

)	DOCKET TR-130319
CITY OF COLLEGE PLACE,)	
)	ORDER 01
Petitioner,)	
)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD and)	MODIFY WARNING DEVICES AND
)	INSTALL SIDEWALKS AT A PUBLIC
PALOUSE RIVER & COULEE CITY)	HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE CROSSING
RAILROAD,)	AT NORTH COLLEGE AVENUE
)	
Respondents.)	USDOT: 810011Y
)	
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On March 5, 2013, the City of College Place (City or Petitioner) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission), a petition seeking approval to modify a railroad-highway grade crossing. The crossing is identified as USDOT 810011Y and is located at the intersection of North College Avenue (College Avenue and Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) and Palouse River and Coulee City Railroad's (PCC) tracks in the city of College Place.
- 2 UPRR owns the tracks and the PCC leases and operates on this segment of track. Respondents UPRR and PCC both consented to entry of an Order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.
- 3 Current railroad warning devices at the crossing consist of three shoulder-mounted lights and gate signal masts. The unique configurations of the College Avenue and Rose Street intersection require a third signal mast to protect all approaches to the crossing.
- 4 College Avenue is a principal arterial composed of a two-lane roadway with a posted vehicle speed limit of 30 miles per hour. Average annual daily traffic through the crossing is estimated at 3,100 vehicles, which includes 14 school buses.
- 5 PCC operates one freight train per day at up to 10 miles per hour over the single track main line crossing. No passenger trains operate over the crossing.

6 The City is undertaking a project which will completely reconstruct several key roadways within the city including the intersection of College Avenue and Rose Street. The project reconstructs 11,300 feet of streets, provides 2,750 feet of multiuse path, 14,200 feet of ten-foot sidewalks, and creates additional parking along Rose Street. Street lights will be installed along the corridor, as well as planting beds and decorative fencing. In addition, the College Avenue and Rose Street intersection will be reconfigured to allow full turning movements for vehicles.

7 The City proposes to reconfigure the crossing by adding a ten foot sidewalk to the crossing. A new flasher- only signal mast will be added to this quadrant of the crossing where the new sidewalk will be installed. This additional signal mast will provide pedestrians with warning on either approach to the crossing when a train is approaching. One roadway lane in each direction will remain at the crossing; however, the City is reconfiguring the roadway so there will be two approach lanes on the northbound approach that will merge into a single lane at the crossing. Two new concrete medians will also be constructed that will accommodate two new shoulder mounted lights and gate signal masts on this approach.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8 (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.*
- 9 (2) The College Avenue grade crossing, identified as USDOT 810011Y, is a public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington.
- 10 (3) RCW 81.53.261 and WAC 480-62-150 require that the Commission grant approval prior to modifying a public railroad-highway grade crossing or upgrading active crossing warning signals or devices within the state of Washington.
- 11 (4) Commission staff investigated the petition and recommended that it be granted with conditions.
- 12 (5) After examination of the petition filed by the City of College Place on March 5, 2013, and giving consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission grants the petition.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:


13 The petition of the City of College Place to modify a railroad-highway grade crossing at the intersection of College Avenue and the Respondents' tracks in the city of College Place is granted. Approval of the petition is subject to the following conditions:

- (1) The modifications must conform to those described and attached to the revised petition.
- (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) Upon completion of the authorized construction, Petitioner must notify the Commission within 30 days. Acceptance of the changes is subject to inspection by Commission Staff, verifying that the crossing is in full compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and the conditions set forth in this order.

The Secretary of the Commission has delegated authority over this matter pursuant to Order 03 in Docket A-090485. The Secretary finds this Order to be consistent with the public interest.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective March 22, 2013.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION



STEVEN V. KING, Acting Executive Director and Secretary

NOTICE: This is an order delegated to the Secretary for decision. In addition to serving you a copy of the decision, the Commission will post on its Internet Web site for at least fourteen (14) days a listing of all matters delegated to the Secretary for decision. You may seek Commission review of this decision. You must file a request for Commission review of this order no later than fourteen (14) days after the date the decision is posted on the Commission's Web site. The Commission will schedule your request for review for consideration at a regularly scheduled open meeting. The Commission will notify you of the time and place of the open meeting at which the Commission will review the order.

The Commission will grant a late-filed request for review only on a showing of good cause, including a satisfactory explanation of why the person did not timely file the request. A form for late-filed requests is available on the Commission's Web site.

This notice and review process is pursuant to the provisions of RCW 80.01.030 and WAC 480-07-904(2) and (3).