

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of)	DOCKET TR-140758
)	
CASCADE & COLUMBIA RIVER)	ORDER 01
RAILROAD ,)	
)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
Petitioner,)	MODIFY HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE
)	CROSSING ACTIVE WARNING
)	DEVICES AND AUTHORIZING
)	EXPENDITURE FROM THE GRADE
)	CROSSING PROTECTIVE FUND
Seeking Approval to Upgrade Signals)	
at a Railroad-Highway Grade Crossing)	USDOT: 096305N
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BACKGROUND

- 1 On May 1, 2014, Cascade & Columbia River Railroad (CCRR or Petitioner) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission), a petition seeking approval to modify active warning devices at a railroad-highway grade crossing. The crossing is identified as USDOT 096305N and is located at the intersection of Highway 155 (Omak Avenue) and the Petitioner’s tracks in the City of Omak. The Petitioner further requested the Commission authorize an expenditure of \$19,912.33 from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund (GCPF) to pay for a portion of the upgrades.

- 2 Railroad warning devices at the Highway 155 crossing consist of cantilevers with flashing lights, gates with flashing lights, a warning bell, crossbucks, and motion sensor train detection on the main track and island DC on the two siding tracks. The Petitioner proposes to install new gates with LED gate light kits and replace the batteries and battery charger. In addition, CCRR requests funding to hire a consultant to prepare signal plans which must be upgraded per federal requirements if circuitry changes are proposed. CCRR has filed a separate grant request in docket TR-140759 which proposes these changes. In this grant request the petitioner proposes to upgrade the train detection system and circuitry at this crossing.

- 3 Commission staff reviewed the proposed upgrades and recommends approval of the project. These upgrades will improve the overall safety at the crossing by providing motorists and pedestrians with upgraded active warning devices to notify the public of an approaching train. The LED flashing lights will provide greater visibility for the

motoring public. The new batteries and and battery chargers will improve reliability if there is a power failure at the crossing.

- 4 Highway 155 is a two-lane roadway with a posted speed limit of 35 miles per hour. Average annual daily vehicle traffic through the crossing is estimated at 4,000 vehicles. Highway 155 is part of an established school bus route, with 25 school buses traveling over the crossing each day. The crossing is also part of an established truck route, with trucks making up 10 percent of the total daily traffic on this roadway. Freight trains are authorized to operate at 20 miles per hour over this three-track crossing, which includes one mainline and two siding tracks. Twelve freight trains per day currently operate between five and 20 miles per hour. No passenger trains operate over the crossing.
- 5 The total approximate cost of the project is \$19,912.33. The Petitioner is contributing labor toward the cost of the upgrades and is responsible for any additional project costs. An expenditure of \$19,912.33 from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund is available to help fund the improvements.

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, and authority to approve and administer disbursements from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund. RCW 81.53; RCW 81.53.271; RCW 81.53.281.
- 7 (2) The grade crossing at Highway 155, identified as USDOT 096305N, is a public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington.
- 8 (3) RCW 81.53.261 requires the Commission grant approval prior to any changes to public railroad-highway grade crossings within the state of Washington. *See also* WAC 480-62-150.
- 9 (4) RCW 81.53.271 allows the Commission to disburse up to \$20,000 from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund to pay for the installation of a grade crossing protective device, without requiring the Petitioner to share the cost.
- 10 (5) Commission Staff investigated the petition and recommended that it be granted, subject to specified conditions.

- 11 (6) After reviewing CCRR's petition filed on May 1, 2014, and giving due consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission grants the petition and request for disbursement of funds.

O R D E R

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 12 Cascade & Columbia River Railroad's petition to upgrade warning devices at a railroad-highway grade crossing, located at Highway 155, is granted. The cost of this upgrade shall be paid from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund. Approval of the petition is subject to the following conditions:
- (1) Expenditure from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must not exceed \$19,912.33.
 - (2) Payment will be made upon presentation of claim for reimbursement for materials and labor, and verification by Commission Staff that the work has been satisfactorily completed.
 - (3) Cascade & Columbia River Railroad must sign and return the attached project agreement.
 - (4) The project must be completed no later than May 1, 2015.
 - (5) Traffic control devices must comply with all applicable standards specified in the U.S. Department of Transportation *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.
 - (6) Cascade & Columbia River Railroad must notify the Commission on completion of the upgrades authorized in this Order. Acceptance of the upgrades is subject to inspection by Commission Staff, and verification that the crossing is in full compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and the conditions specified 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 May 20, 2014.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION



STEVEN V. KING, 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 website 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 website.

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