

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

CITY OF WALLA WALLA,

Petitioner,

v.

PALOUSE RIVER AND COULEE
CITY RAILROAD, LLC,

Respondent.

DOCKET TR-160797

ORDER 01

ORDER GRANTING PETITION FOR
PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS AT
THE ISAACS AVENUE/PENROSE
AVENUE CROSSING IN WALLA
WALLA

USDOT: 097083K

BACKGROUND

- 1 On June 8, 2016, the City of Walla Walla (City or Petitioner) filed a petition with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission), seeking approval to install sidewalks at a railroad-highway grade crossing. The crossing is identified as USDOT 097083K and is located at the intersection of Isaacs Avenue and Penrose Avenue in Walla Walla, Washington.
- 2 The Palouse River and Coulee City Railroad, LLC (PRCC or Respondent) consented to entry of an Order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.
- 3 Railroad warning devices at the Isaacs Avenue/Penrose Avenue grade crossing consist of cantilever and shoulder-mounted flashing lights, crossbucks, a pedestrian warning bell, and advance warning signs.
- 4 The current crossing surface consists of concrete panels which provide sufficient pedestrian access on the south side of Isaacs Avenue. However, the concrete panels do not extend far enough north to provide an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible pedestrian crossing on the north side of the crossing. The City plans to reconstruct Isaacs Avenue in the summer of 2017. In anticipation of this reconstruction, the PRCC will install an additional set of eight foot crossing panels on the north side of the crossing. The City proposes to then install a new six to eight foot wide sidewalk, including ADA ramps flush with the crossing panels, to create an accessible pedestrian crossing on the north side of Isaacs Avenue. The proposed extension of the crossing panels and installation of the sidewalk will provide a smooth surface for pedestrians

traversing the crossing. The Petitioner will maintain the sidewalk surface and the PRCC will maintain the crossing surface.

- 5 Isaacs Avenue/Penrose Avenue is a four-lane roadway with a posted speed limit of 30 miles per hour. Average daily vehicle traffic through the crossing is estimated at 15,500 vehicles which includes up to 14 percent commercial traffic. No trains currently operate over this spur track crossing, as the PRCC is in the process of taking the line out of service.
- 6 The proposed sidewalk is in the interest of improving safety for pedestrian users. The sidewalk will ensure that pedestrians have a designated path to safely cross the grade crossing. In addition to the installation of the sidewalk, Commission staff recommends granting the City of Walla Walla's petition subject to the following conditions:
- The modifications must conform to those described in the petition.
 - Traffic control devices must comply with all applicable standards specified in the 2009 U.S. Department of Transportation Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.
 - Upon completion of the sidewalks authorized herein, the Petitioner must notify the Commission within 60 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 specified herein.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 7 (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.*
- 8 (2) The Isaacs Avenue/Penrose Avenue grade crossing, identified as USDOT 097083K, is a public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington.
- 9 (3) WAC 480-62-150(1)(g) requires that the Commission grant approval prior to any changes to crossing at public railroad-highway grade crossings within the state of Washington.

- 10 (4) Commission Staff investigated the petition and recommended that it be granted.
- 11 (5) After examination of the petition filed by the City of Walla Walla on June 8, 2016, 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 Walla Walla to install sidewalks at a railroad-highway grade crossing, located at Isaacs Avenue/Penrose Avenue in Walla Walla, Washington, is granted. Approval of the petition is subject to the following conditions:
- (1) The modifications must conform to those described in the petition.
 - (2) Traffic control devices must comply with all applicable standards specified in the 2009 U.S. Department of Transportation *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.
 - (3) Upon completion of the sidewalks authorized herein, the Petitioner must notify the Commission within 60 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 specified herein.

The Secretary of the Commission has delegated authority over this matter pursuant to Order 01 in Docket A-151775. The Secretary finds this Order to be consistent with the public interest.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective June 22, 2016.

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).