

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON STATE
DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION,

Petitioner,

EASTERN WASHINGTON
GATEWAY RAILROAD,

Respondent.

DOCKET TR-170388

ORDER 01

ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
MODIFY HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE
CROSSING ACTIVE WARNING
DEVICES AT STATE ROUTE 902 IN
MEDICAL LAKE

USDOT: 066331W

BACKGROUND

- 1 On May 18, 2017, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT or Petitioner) filed a petition with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) seeking approval to modify highway-rail grade crossing active warning devices at the State Route 902 (SR-902) crossing in Medical Lake, identified as USDOT 066331W.
- 2 Respondent Eastern Washington Gateway Railroad (EWG) consented to entry of an Order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.
- 3 SR-902 is a two-lane roadway with a posted speed limit of 30 miles per hour. Average annual daily traffic through the crossing is estimated at 5,100 vehicles. SR-902 is part of a designated school bus route with 27 school buses traveling over the crossing daily. It is also part of an established truck route with five and one half percent commercial motor vehicle traffic.
- 4 EWG operates one freight train per day over this single mainline track crossing. The authorized speed limit for freight trains is 25 miles per hour. No passenger trains operate over the crossing. Railroad warning devices at the SR-902 crossing consist of cantilever-mounted flashing lights, a pedestrian bell, and advance warning signs.

- 5 WSDOT proposes to install crossing gates at the SR-902 crossing. These improvements are
funded by the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway
Administration, Railroad Highways Crossings Section 130 program.
- 6 The proposed upgrades are in the interest of improving the overall safety for roadway users.

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 proposed modification involves a public railroad-highway grade crossing, as
defined in RCW 81.53.010.
- 9 (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 within the state of
Washington.
- 10 (4) Commission staff investigated the petition and recommends that it be granted. All
traffic control devices must comply with all applicable standards specified in the U.S.
Department of Transportation *2009 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.*
- 11 (5) After examination of the petition filed by WSDOT on May 18, 2017, 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 WSDOT to modify a railroad-highway grade crossing at SR-902 in Medical
Lake is granted, as follows:
- (1) The modifications must conform to those described in the petition.

- (2) Traffic control devices must comply with all applicable standards specified in the U.S. Department of Transportation *2009 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.
- (3) Petitioner must notify Commission Staff within 30 days upon completion of this project.

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 May 23, 2017.

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 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).