

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of	DOCKET TR-250480
BNSF RAILWAY CO.,	ORDER 01
Petitioner,	
CITY OF AUBURN,	GRANTING PETITION TO MODIFY A RAILROAD-HIGHWAY GRADE CROSSING
Respondent.	USDOT: 980767S

BACKGROUND

- 1 On June 16, 2025, BNSF Railway Co. (BNSF or Petitioner) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a petition (Petition) seeking approval to modify a railroad-highway public pedestrian grade crossing along C Street and a BNSF industrial track in Auburn, identified as USDOT 980767S.
- 2 The respondent, the City of Auburn, consented to entry of an Order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.
- 3 The C Street crossing is a single-lane public pedestrian pathway. Warning devices at the C Street crossing consist of advance warning signs, pavement markings, reflectorized crossbucks, Yield signs, and Emergency Notification System signs. One freight train per week operates at up to 10 miles per hour through this crossing. No passenger trains operate at this location.
- 4 BNSF proposes to shift the existing track 1.4 feet to the south, requiring a shift of the crossing panels. The proposed change requires the replacement of the crossing surface.
- 5 According to the Petition, the parties have reached an agreement related to apportionment of costs.
- 6 Commission staff (Staff) has investigated the Petition and recommends that it be granted subject to the following conditions: (1) the project must conform to the description in the Petition, (2) BNSF must complete the proposed modifications within three years, and (3) upon completion of the project authorized herein, BNSF must notify the Commission within 60 days. Acceptance is subject to inspection by Staff, verifying that the crossing is in full compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and the conditions specified herein.

DISCUSSION

- 7 RCW 81.53.060 requires that the Commission grant approval prior to modification of a public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington. We find that the proposed modifications will provide safety, mobility, and convenience for crossing users. Accordingly, the Commission grants the Petition subject to the conditions that Staff recommends.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington having jurisdiction over public railroad-highway grade crossings within the state of Washington.
- 9 (2) The C Street crossing, identified as USDOT 980767S, is a public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington.
- 10 (3) RCW 81.53.060 requires that the Commission grant approval prior to modifying a public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington. See also WAC 480-62-150.
- 11 (4) Staff investigated the Petition and recommends that it be granted with the conditions set out in paragraph 6 above.
- 12 (5) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled open meeting on August 7, 2025.
- 13 (6) After examination of the Petition filed by the BNSF on June 16, 2025, and giving consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission grants the Petition.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 14 BNSF Railway Co.'s Petition to modify a public railroad-highway grade crossing located at C Street is granted. Approval of the Petition is subject to the following conditions:
- (1) The project must conform to the description in the Petition.
 - (2) BNSF Railway Co. must complete the proposed modifications within three years.

- (3) Upon completion of the project authorized herein, BNSF Railway Co. must notify the Commission within 60 days. Acceptance is subject to inspection by Staff, verifying that the crossing is in full compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and the conditions specified herein.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective August 7, 2025.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

JEFF KILLIP,
Executive Director and Secretary