

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

THE CITY OF SUMNER)	DOCKET NO. TR-001750
)	
Petitioner,)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION
)	TO CLOSE A HIGHWAY-RAIL
v.)	GRADE CROSSING AT
)	WILLIAMS AVENUE
THE BURLINGTON NORTHERN)	
SANTA FE RAILWAY COMPANY)	D.O.T. 085679N
)	
Respondent)	W.U.T.C. 1E 28.20
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On December 27, 2001, the City of Sumner filed a petition with the Commission seeking authority to close a highway-rail grade crossing. The crossing is located at the intersection of Williams Avenue and the tracks of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company, in the NW ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 24, Township 20N, Range 4E, W.M., in Sumner, Washington.
- 2 Respondent consented to an entry of an order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.

DISCUSSION

- 3 The proposal is related to another petition, filed under Docket TR-001751, by which the City of Sumner seeks to establish a new highway-rail grade crossing at Puyallup Street. The petition for the closure of the Williams Avenue grade crossing states that “the City’s Comprehensive Transportation Plan recommends the extension of Puyallup Street across the BNSF Railroad to East Valley Highway to provide a better commercial/truck route to serve the industrial areas North of Sumner. The Williams Avenue crossing is at an acute angle to the railroad and the City is willing to replace this crossing with a new improved crossing at Puyallup Street, which is about one-quarter mile northeast of this crossing.” The proposal is essentially the closure of one highway-rail grade crossing and the establishment of another at a safer location, which will provide for improved traffic circulation within the City.
- 4 Pursuant to the procedure specified in RCW 81.53.060, Commission Staff posted notice of the filing of the petition at the grade crossing and caused the same notice to be published in the Puyallup Herald, a newspaper of general circulation in the area, on February 7, 2002. The notice directed that any person having objection to the closure should state such objections in writing to the Commission by March 1, 2002. No objections were received. The City of Sumner, as State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Lead Agency for the proposal has issued a Determination of Non-

Significance threshold determination, thereby satisfying SEPA requirements for the closure of highway-rail grade crossings.

5 Commission Staff investigated the petition and recommended that it be granted, subject to specified conditions.

6 This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled open meeting on March 13, 2002. The Commissioners have reviewed the petition and have been advised in the matter. They believe that granting the petition, subject to the conditions set forth below, is in the public interest, and direct the Secretary to issue the Order.

ORDER

7 THE COMMISSION GRANTS the petition of the City of Sumner to close a highway-rail grade crossing, designated as WUTC 1E 28.20 and located at the intersection of Williams Avenue and the tracks of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company, in Sumner, Washington, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) Upon closure of the crossing, the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company must remove the crossing surface and traffic control devices at the crossing. The City of Sumner must remove all railroad warning devices on Williams Avenue in advance of the crossing.
- (2) The City of Sumner must install barricades or employ some other means that specifies the terminus points of Williams Avenue on either side of the tracks and indicates that access across the tracks is not possible via Williams Avenue.
- (3) In the event that a cul-de-sac or other turn-around is constructed at the site of the existing crossing on some future date, the City of Sumner must provide the Commission with a copy of the plans for comment prior to the construction.
- (4) The City of Sumner must notify the Commission, in writing, when the crossing is closed to all roadway traffic.

DATED at Olympia, Washington and effective this 13th of March, 2002.

THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN
Secretary