

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

KITSAP COUNTY,)	DOCKET NO. TR-030650
)	
Petitioner,)	ORDER NO. 01
)	
v.)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
)	UPGRADE RAILROAD WARNING
THE PUGET SOUND AND)	DEVICES AT SHERMAN HEIGHTS
PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY,)	ROAD
)	
Respondent.)	USDOT: 096609E
)	WUTC: 40B 1.80
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On May 7, 2003, Kitsap County filed a petition with the Commission, seeking approval to upgrade warning devices at a railroad-highway grade crossing. The crossing is located at the intersection of Sherman Heights Road and tracks of the Puget Sound and Pacific Railroad Company, in the NE ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 32, Township 24 N., Range 1 E., W.M., in Kitsap County, Washington. Funding for the upgrades is pursuant to the Inter-modal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, in cooperation with the Washington State Department of Transportation.
- 2 Respondent has consented to an entry of an Order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.
- 3 In the vicinity of the crossing, Sherman Heights Road is classified as an urban local road. The roadway consists of one lane for each direction of traffic and has a vehicle speed limit of 25 mph. The respondent’s tracks cross Sherman Heights Road at a slightly obtuse angle, and the west-bound roadway approach to the crossing has an ascending grade of approximately 4%, however, the roadway grade is flat through the crossing itself. Sight distance down the tracks for

motorists approaching the crossing is obscured by vegetation in all four quadrants of the crossing. Average daily traffic through the crossing is estimated at 2,512 vehicles, including 377 trucks and 6 school bus trips.

4 Respondent maintains one mainline track through the crossing. Average daily train traffic includes two freight trains, traveling at a maximum speed of 25 mph.

5 Warning devices at the crossing consist of crossbucks and stop signs. Petitioner seeks to replace the stop signs with shoulder-mounted flashing light signals with gates. The upgrades are proposed in the interest of improving safety for roadway users.

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. *Chapter 81.53 RCW.*

7 (2) The Sherman Heights Road grade crossing, identified as USDOT 096609E, is a public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington.

8 (3) RCW 81.53.261 requires that the Commission grant approval prior to making changes in the method and manner of traffic control at public railroad-highway grade crossings within the state of Washington.

9 (4) Commission Staff investigated the petition and recommended that it be granted, subject to specified conditions.

10 (5) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on May 28, 2003.

- 11 (6) After examination of the petition filed by Kitsap County on May 7, 2003, 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 Kitsap County to upgrade railroad warning devices at a railroad-highway grade crossing, located at the intersection of Sherman Heights Road and the tracks of the Puget Sound and Pacific Railroad Company, in Kitsap County, Washington, is granted, subject to the following conditions:
- (1) The upgrades must conform to the plans filed in this proceeding.
 - (2) Traffic control devices must comply with all applicable standards specified in the U.S. Department of Transportation *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.
 - (3) Traffic control devices and instrument housing must be installed in such a manner as to provide required clearances from both the roadway and railroad tracks.
 - (4) Upon completion of the upgrades authorized herein, petitioner must notify the Commission. 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 Commissioners, having determined that this filing complies with the requirements of RCW 81.53.261, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

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DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 28th day of May, 2003.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary