

motorists approaching the crossing is obscured by vegetation in all four quadrants of the crossing. Average daily traffic through the crossing is estimated at 4,870 vehicles, including several school bus trips.

4 Respondent maintains one branch-line track through the crossing. Average daily train traffic includes two freight trains, traveling at a maximum speed of 10 mph.

5 Warning devices at the crossing consist of standard crossbucks and advance warning signs. Petitioner seeks to install 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 R. W. Johnson Road grade crossing, identified as USDOT 085271R, 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 July 23, 2003.

11 (6) After examination of the petition filed by the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company on June 19, 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 the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company to upgrade warning devices at a railroad-highway grade crossing, located at the intersection of R. W. Johnson Road and the tracks of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company, in Olympia, 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 23rd day of July, 2003.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary