

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

THE BURLINGTON NORTHERN	)	DOCKET NO. TR-031319
SANTA FE RAILWAY	)	
COMPANY,	)	ORDER NO. 01
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
v.	)	UPGRADE RAILROAD WARNING
	)	DEVICES AT LINCOLN AVENUE
SUNNYSIDE, WASHINGTON	)	
	)	USDOT: 098594Y
Respondent.	)	WUTC: 33U 52.50
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On August 15, 2003, The Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company 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 Lincoln Avenue and the petitioner’s tracks, in the SW ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 30, Township 10 N., Range 23 W., W.M., in Sunnyside, 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, Lincoln Avenue is classified as a minor arterial. The roadway consists of one lane for each direction of traffic and has a vehicle speed limit of 25 mph. Average daily traffic through the crossing is estimated at 1,000 vehicles, including 42 trucks and 12 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 20 mph. According to BNSF train crews operating across Lincoln Avenue, the crossing

has been the site of several near misses between trains and motor vehicles in recent years.

5 Warning devices at the crossing consist of standard crossbucks and advance warning signs. Petitioner seeks to install cantilever-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 Swan Road grade crossing, identified as USDOT 098594Y, 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 September 10, 2003.

11 (6) After examination of the petition filed by the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company on August 15, 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 Lincoln Avenue and the tracks of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company, in Sunnyside, 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 10<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2003.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary