

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

In The Matter of the Petition of)	DOCKET NO. TR-040302
)	
THE NORTHWEST RAILWAY)	ORDER NO. 01
MUSEUM,)	
)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
Petitioner,)	UPGRADE TRAIN DETECTION
)	CIRCUITRY AND AUTHORIZE
)	EXPENDITURE FROM THE GRADE
)	CROSSING PROTECTIVE FUND
Seeking approval to upgrade train)	
detection circuitry at a railroad-)	USDOT: 092031B
highway grade crossing)	WUTC: 29A 33.70
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On February 17, 2004, the Northwest Railway Museum filed a petition with the Commission, seeking approval to upgrade train detection circuitry at a railroad-highway grade crossing. The crossing is identified as USDOT 092031B and located at the intersection of Meadowbrook Way SE and the petitioner’s tracks, in King County, Washington. The petitioner further requests the Commission to authorize expenditure from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund to pay for the upgrade.
- 2 Railroad warning devices at the Meadowbrook Way grade crossing consist of shoulder-mounted flashing light signals and gates that are activated by AC/DC - type train detection circuitry. The petitioner proposes to improve the existing equipment by replacing the battery back-up system, upgrading the existing eight-inch flashing light signals with twelve-inch signals, and rewiring the circuitry. The upgrades will improve efficiency and reliability of the warning system.
- 3 Petitioner requests that Grade Crossing Protective Fund monies be allocated to pay for the upgrades. The total approximate cost of the project is \$6,671.15. An

expenditure of \$6,700 from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund is available to pay for the improvements.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4 (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.*
- 5 (2) The Meadowbrook Way grade crossing, identified as USDOT 092031B, is a public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington.
- 6 (3) WAC 480-62-150 (2)(d) requires that the Commission grant approval prior to any changes to train detection circuitry at public railroad-highway grade crossings within the state of Washington.
- 7 (4) RCW 81.53.271 allows the Commission to disburse up to \$20,000 from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund to pay for the installation of a grade crossing protective device, without requiring a cost-share by the petitioner.
- 8 (5) Commission Staff investigated the petition and recommended that it be granted, subject to specified conditions.
- 9 (6) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on March 24, 2004.
- 10 (7) After examination of the petition filed by the Northwest Railway Museum on February 17, 2004, and giving consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission grants the petition.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 11 The petition of the Northwest Railway Museum to upgrade train detection circuitry at a railroad-highway grade crossing, located at the intersection Meadowbrook Way SE and the petitioner's tracks, in King County, Washington, is granted. The cost of this upgrade shall be paid from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund. Approval of the petition is subject to the following conditions:
- (1) Expenditure from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must not exceed \$6,700.
 - (2) Payment will be made upon presentation of claim for reimbursement for materials and labor, and verification by Commission Staff that the work has been satisfactorily completed.
 - (3) Traffic control devices must comply with all applicable standards specified in the U.S. Department of Transportation *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.
 - (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 WAC 480-62-150, RCW 81.53.030, and RCW 81.53.271 directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

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DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 24th day of March, 2004.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary