

approaching trains is obscured for westbound motorists by vegetation in the crossing's northeast quadrant. Average daily traffic through the Stone Road grade crossing is estimated at less than 100 vehicles, and includes four school bus trips.

- 4 Respondent maintains two mainline tracks through the crossing. Average daily train traffic includes 25 freight trains and two passenger trains, traveling at a maximum speed of 50 mph and 60 mph respectively.
- 5 Warning devices at the crossing consist of standard crossbuck 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 Stone Road grade crossing, identified as USDOT 065724B, 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 any 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 March 24, 2004.

- 11 (6) After examination of the petition filed by the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company on March 3, 2004, 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 Stone Road and the petitioner's tracks, in Lincoln 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 24th day of March, 2004.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary