

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

THE BURLINGTON NORTHERN	)	DOCKET NO. TR-041372
SANTA FE RAILWAY	)	
COMPANY,	)	ORDER NO. 01
	)	
Petitioner,	)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
	)	UPGRADE WARNING DEVICES AT
v.	)	A RAILROAD-HIGHWAY GRADE
	)	CROSSING
SNOHOMISH COUNTY,	)	
	)	USDOT: 084534Y
Respondent.	)	WUTC: 2A 1747.72
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On August 2, 2004, 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 the petitioner's tracks and Reiter Road, in the NW ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 19, Township 27 N., Range 10 E., W.M., in Snohomish 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, Reiter Road is classified as a rural local road, with one lane for each direction of traffic and a vehicle speed limit of 25 mph. Roadway curves and vegetation limit direct approach visibility to 100 feet for both roadway approaches. Average daily traffic through the crossing is estimated at 100 vehicles; however, this number increases significantly during the summer months due to local recreational attractions. In addition, Reiter

Road is designated as the primary detour route in the event that SR-2 is closed or impassable for any reason.

4 Petitioner maintains one main track through the crossing. Average daily train traffic across Reiter Road is estimated at 25 freight trains and two passenger trains. The maximum timetable speed through the crossing is 20 mph.

5 Warning devices at the crossing include crossbucks and stop signs. Petitioner seeks to upgrade warning at the crossing by installing shoulder-mounted flashing light signals with gates. The changes are proposed in the interest of improving public safety at the crossing.

#### 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 Reiter Road grade crossing, identified as USDOT 084534Y, 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 August 11, 2004.

11 (6) After examination of the petition filed by The Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company on August 2, 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 public railroad-highway grade crossing, located at the intersection of Reiter Road and the petitioner's tracks, in Snohomish County, Washington, is granted, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) The upgrades must conform to the specifications 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) Prior to activation of the warning signals, Snohomish County must remove the stop signs that currently serve as warning devices at the grade crossing.
- (5) 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 11<sup>th</sup> day of August 2004.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary