

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

CITY OF RICHLAND,)	DOCKET NO. TR-051139
)	
Petitioner,)	ORDER NO. 01
)	
v.)	
)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
BNSF,)	RELOCATE A PUBLIC RAILROAD-
)	HIGHWAY GRADE CROSSING AT
Respondent.)	LESLIE ROAD
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On July 26, 2005, the City of Richland filed a petition with the Commission, seeking approval to relocate a public railroad-highway grade crossing. The location of the proposed crossing is the intersection of Leslie Road and the tracks of the BNSF, at milepost 10.94 in the NE ½ of Section 11, Township 8 N, Range 28 E W.M., in Benton County, Washington.

- 2 The BNSF has consented to an entry of an order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.

- 3 The City of Richland, the City of Kennewick, and Benton County, have agreed to participate in the widening and relocation of Leslie Road and its intersection with Clearwater Avenue. Widening and relocating Leslie Road requires relocation of the highway grade crossing currently located on Leslie Road.

- 4 The BNSF runs a main line that crosses Leslie Road, consisting of one set of tracks. It currently operates six freight trains each day at a maximum speed of 49 miles per hour. It is authorized to operate at 53 miles per hour.

- 5 Leslie Road is classified as a minor arterial county highway. It is a two-lane road, with one lane traveling in each direction. The maximum speed limit is 40 miles per hour. Approximately 8,700 vehicles travel across the tracks on Leslie Road each day. Approximately 1% of those are trucks; none are school buses. The City projects that in 15 years, 14,800 vehicles will travel across the tracks, with 1% trucks and no school buses.

6 Signalized warning devices at the crossing will include flashing lights with gates.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

7 (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.*

8 (2) The relocated Leslie Road crossing will be a public railroad-highway
grade crossing, as defined in RCW 81.53.010.

9 (3) RCW 81.53.030 and WAC 480-62-150(1)(a) require that the Commission
grant approval prior to relocating railroad-highway grade crossings
within the state of Washington.

10 (4) Commission Staff investigated the petition and recommended that it be
granted, subject to the conditions outlined in the order, below.

11 (5) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled
meeting on January 25, 2006.

12 (6) After examination of the petition filed by the City of Richland, and giving
consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the
Commission grants the petition.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

13 The petition of City of Richland to relocate a public railroad-highway grade
crossing at Leslie Road and the tracks of the BNSF in Benton County,
Washington, is granted, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) All construction and installations must conform to the plans
filed in this proceeding.

- (2) The crossing must be hard-surfaced between the rails and for a distance of at least one foot outside each rail for the full width of the traveled roadway, including the shoulders.
- (3) Traffic control devices, advance warning signs, and pavement markings must comply with applicable standards specified in the U.S. Department of Transportation *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.
- (4) Traffic control devices and instrument housing must be installed in such a manner as to provide required clearances for both rail and vehicular traffic.
- (5) Upon completion of the construction authorized herein, Petitioner must notify the Commission.

The Commissioners, having determined that this filing complies with the requirements of RCW 81.53.030, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 25th day of January, 2006.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary