

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

WASHINGTON STATE)	DOCKET TR-060036
DEPARTMENT OF)	
TRANSPORTATION,)	ORDER 01
Petitioner,)	
)	
v.)	
)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
YAKIMA COUNTY,)	RECONSTRUCT A PUBLIC
)	RAILROAD-HIGHWAY GRADE
Respondent.)	CROSSING AT US HIGHWAY 97
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On January 6, 2006, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) filed a petition with the Commission seeking approval to reconstruct a public railroad-highway grade crossing. The location of the crossing is Milepost 65.11 at US Highway 97, in Yakima County, Washington. The tracks of the White Swan Branch Line, owned by Yakima County, cross the highway at that location.
- 2 Yakima County has consented to an entry of an order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.
- 3 US Highway 97 is classified as a three-lane rural-minor arterial (one lane each direction and one center left-hand turn lane) with a speed limit of 55 miles per hour. Traffic through the crossing in a 24-hour period averages 11,394 vehicles, including 1,037 trucks and 6 school busses.
- 4 Yakima County maintains one branch-line track through the crossing. Average daily train traffic consists of six freight trains traveling at a maximum speed of 25 miles per hour. No passenger trains travel this crossing.
- 5 Current warning devices at the crossing include 26' cantilevers with flashing lights. WSDOT intends to replace current signals with 34' cantilevers with flashing lights supplied by the county; and it intends to replace current advance warning signs with new signs.

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 proposed reconstruction of an existing crossing involves a public railroad-highway grade crossing, as defined in RCW 81.53.010.
- 8 (3) RCW 81.53.060 requires the Commission grant approval prior to reconstructing or otherwise altering an established public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington.
- 9 (4) Commission staff investigated the petition and recommended that it be granted.
- 10 (5) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on April 26, 2006.
- 11 (6) After examination of the petition filed by Washington State Department of Transportation on January 6, 2006, 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 Washington State Department of Transportation to reconstruct an existing public railroad-highway grade crossing at the intersection of US Highway 97 and the tracks of the White Swan Branch Line in Yakima County, Washington, is granted, subject to the following conditions:
- (1) All construction and installation must conform to the plans filed in this proceeding.
 - (2) 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*.

- (3) Traffic control devices and instrument housing must be installed in such a manner as to provide required clearances for both rail and vehicular traffic.
- (4) 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 81.53.060, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective April 26, 2006.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary