

growth in Walla Walla and College Place urban areas. The project will realign Hatch Street and add additional vehicle travel lanes in each direction, including a left turn lane. The project will also replace the crossing surface with concrete materials, add sidewalks in both directions, upgrade the railroad warning devices to cantilever and shoulder-mounted signals with gates, and interconnect the railroad signals with the new highway traffic signal that will be installed. Once the project is complete, the road will be renamed to Myra Street.

- 6 The proposed upgrades to the crossing are in the interest of improving safety for roadway and pedestrian users. The proposed interconnection of the new traffic signal and the railroad crossing signals will ensure that all vehicles will clear the tracks when trains approach.

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 RCW 81.53.*
- 8 (2) The Hatch Street crossing, identified as USDOT 810016H is a public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington.
- 9 (3) RCW 81.53.261 requires that the Commission grant approval prior to making changes in the method and manner of traffic control at public railroad-highway grade crossings within the state of Washington.
- 10 (4) Commission Staff investigated the petition and recommended that it be granted.
- 11 (5) After examination of the petition filed by the city of Walla Walla on February 20, 2007, 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 city of Walla Walla to reconstruct a highway-railroad grade crossing and modify warning devices at a railroad-highway grade crossing, located at Hatch Street and the respondent's tracks in Walla Walla county, is granted, as follows:

- (1) The modifications must conform to those described in the petition.
- (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 modifications 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.

DATED at Olympia, Washington and effective March 20, 2007.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Executive Secretary