

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

TOWN OF GARFIELD,)	DOCKET TR-080783
)	
Petitioner,)	ORDER 01
)	
v.)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION FOR
)	PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS AT
)	SECOND STREET
WASHINGTON AND IDAHO)	
RAILROAD and WASHINGTON)	
STATE DEPARTMENT OF)	
TRANSPORTATION,)	USDOT: 058607N
)	UTC: 52C49.20
Respondents)	
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On May 2, 2008, the Town of Garfield (Town) filed a petition with the Commission, seeking approval to install sidewalks at a railroad-highway grade crossing. The crossing is identified as USDOT 058607N and located at the intersection of Second Street and the respondent’s tracks in Garfield, Washington.

- 2 On May 2, 2008, Washington and Idaho Railroad and Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) consented to entry of an Order by the Commission without further notice or hearing. WSDOT owns the rail line and Washington and Idaho Railroad is the operator.

- 3 Second Street is classified as a rural local road, comprised of a two-lane road with one lane in each direction. The Town estimates average daily traffic over the crossing at 550 which includes commercial motor vehicles and nine school bus trips. The posted speed limit is 25 mph.

- 4 Railroad warning devices at the Second Street grade crossing consist of cross bucks and advance warning signs. Currently, one train per day travels over this crossing at a speed of 10 mph. No passenger trains operate on these tracks.

- 5 The petition proposes to install pedestrian sidewalks at the crossing, which will eliminate the existing gaps between the sidewalk systems. The installation of sidewalks at the

crossing is part of a larger project by the Town to install sidewalks from the downtown area to the local public school. The installation of sidewalks will replace dirt and gravel walkways and provide pedestrians a smooth walking surface to cross the tracks. The sidewalks will be located on the east side of the crossing and include several angles leading up to the crossing on both approaches. The angled sidewalk will allow pedestrian users to move across the tracks at a 90 degree angle. The 90 degree angle will reduce the chance of pedestrian users from getting bicycle tires, stroller wheels or walkers stuck in the flange areas and slow down pedestrians when approaching the crossing. The crossing surface where the pedestrians will cross the tracks will also be updated from asphalt to a concrete.

- 6 The proposed sidewalks are in the interest of improving safety for pedestrian users. The sidewalks will ensure that pedestrians have a path to safely cross the railroad-highway grade crossing.

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 Second Street grade crossing, identified as USDOT 058607N is a public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington.
- 9 (3) WAC 480-62-150(1)(g) requires that the Commission grant approval prior to any changes to crossing surfaces 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 Town of Garfield on May 2, 2008, 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 Town of Garfield to install sidewalks at a railroad-highway grade crossing, located at the intersection of Second Street and Washington State Department of Transportation/Washington and Idaho Railroad's tracks in Garfield, Washington, is granted. Approval of the petition is subject to the following conditions:

- (1) The modifications must conform to those described in the petition.
- (2) Upon completion of the sidewalks 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 WAC 480-62-150(1) (g) and RCW 81.53.030, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective May 30, 2008.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Executive Secretary