BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition of)	DOCKET TR-100193
CITY OF AUBURN,))	ORDER 01
)	
Petitioner,)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
)	UPGRADE RAILROAD-HIGHWAY
)	GRADE CROSSINGS AND
)	AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE FROM
)	THE GRADE CROSSING PROTECTIVE
)	FUND
)	
Seeking Approval to Upgrade)	USDOT: 085655A
Railroad-Highway Grade Crossings.)	USDOT: 085652E
-)	USDOT: 085647H

BACKGROUND

- I On January 29, 2010, the City of Auburn (Petitioner) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission), a petition seeking approval to install battery back-up power systems for the traffic signals at three crossings with interconnection between the railroad and traffic signals. The crossings are identified as USDOT 085655A at West Main and C Street Southwest; USDOT 085652E at 3rd and C Street Northwest; and USDOT 085647H at 37th and B Street Northwest in the City of Auburn. Each crossing is located within 150 feet of a BNSF Railway railroad crossing. The Petitioner further requested the Commission authorize an expenditure of \$20,000 from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund (GCPF) to pay for a portion of the upgrades.
- 2 Railroad warning devices at the West Main Street and C Street Southwest; 3rd Street Northwest and C Street Northwest; and 37th Street Northwest and B Street Northwest crossings consist of cantilever mounted lights and gates. The Petitioner proposes to install battery back-up power systems for the traffic signals at these crossings. The proposed back-up power systems will provide power to the traffic signals if there is a power outage. Without consistent power, the traffic signal preemption will cease communicating with the railroad signals thus creating the potential for traffic to back-up over the railroad crossings. The railroad signals already have a battery back-up system maintained by BNSF Railway.
- 3 Approximately 30 freight trains traveling up to 40 miles per hour use these crossings daily. Passenger trains traveling up to 79 miles per hour also use these crossings. These

upgrades will improve the overall safety at the crossing because there will be no disruption of the traffic signal preemption during periods of power outages. The Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices recommends a battery back-up system for interconnected traffic signals.

4 The Petitioner is requesting a disbursement of \$20,000 to pay for a portion of the upgrades. The total approximate cost of the project is \$39,600. The City of Auburn will pay for costs exceeding \$20,000. An expenditure of \$20,000 from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund is available to help fund the improvements.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5 (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, and authority to approve and administer disbursements from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund. *RCW* 81.53; *RCW* 81.53.271; *RCW* 81.53.281.
- 6 (2) The grade crossings at West Main Street and C Street Southwest; 3rd Street Northwest and C Street Northwest; and 37th Street Northwest and B Street Northwest, identified as USDOT 085655A; USDOT 085652E; and USDOT 085647H are public railroad-highway grade crossings within the state of Washington.
- 7 (3) RCW 81.53.261 requires the Commission grant approval prior to any changes to public railroad-highway grade crossings within the state of Washington. *See also WAC 480-62-150*.
- 8 (4) RCW 81.53.271 allows the Commission to disburse up to \$20,000 from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund to pay for the installation of a grade crossing protective device, without requiring the Petitioner to share the cost.
- 9 (5) Commission Staff investigated the petition and recommended that it be granted, subject to specified conditions.
- (6) After reviewing City of Auburn's petition filed on January 29, 2010, and giving due consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission grants the petition and request for disbursement of funds.

O R D E R

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 11 City of Auburn's petition to upgrade warning devices at a railroad-highway grade crossing, located at West Main Street and C Street Southwest; 3rd Street Northwest and C Street Northwest; and 37th Street Northwest and B Street Northwest, is granted. The cost of this upgrade shall be paid from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund. Approval of the petition is subject to the following conditions:
 - Expenditure from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must not exceed \$20,000.
 - (2) Payment will be made upon presentation of claim for reimbursement for materials and labor, and verification by Commission Staff that the work has been satisfactorily completed.
 - (3) City of Auburn must sign and return the attached project agreement.
 - (4) The project must be completed no later than December 31, 2010.
 - (5) Traffic control devices must comply with all applicable standards specified in the U.S. Department of Transportation *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.
 - (6) City of Auburn must notify the Commission on completion of the upgrades authorized in this Order. Acceptance of the upgrades is subject to inspection by Commission Staff, and verification that the crossing is in full compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and the conditions specified in this Order.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective February 26, 2010.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER, Executive Director and Secretary

NOTICE: This is an order delegated to the Secretary for decision. In addition to serving you a copy of the decision, the Commission will post on its Internet Web site for at least fourteen (14) days a listing of all matters delegated to the Secretary for decision. You may seek Commission review of this decision. You must file a request for Commission review of this order no later than fourteen (14) days after the date the decision is posted on the Commission's Web site. The Commission will schedule your request for review for consideration at a regularly scheduled open meeting. The Commission will notify you of the time and place of the open meeting at which the Commission will review the order.

The Commission will grant a late-filed request for review only on a showing of good cause, including a satisfactory explanation of why the person did not timely file the request. A form for late-filed requests is available on the Commission's Web site.

This notice and review process is pursuant to the provisions of RCW 80.01.030 and WAC 480-07-904(2) and (3).