

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

CITY OF WALLA WALLA,	)	DOCKET TR-101501
	)	
Petitioner,	)	ORDER 01
	)	
WATCO TRANSPORTATION, D/B/A PALOUSE RIVER AND COULEE CITY RAILROAD	)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION FOR PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS AT THE EAST MOORE STREET HIGHWAY- RAILROAD GRADE CROSSING
	)	
Respondent.	)	
	)	
.....	)	USDOT: #097098A

**BACKGROUND**

- 1     On September 8, 2010, the City of Walla Walla (City or Petitioner) filed with the Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission), a petition seeking approval to install sidewalks and extend the crossing surface at a railroad-highway grade crossing. The crossing is identified as USDOT #097098A and is located at the intersection of East Moore Street and the Respondent’s tracks in the City of Walla Walla.
  
- 2     Respondent WATCO Transportation d/b/a Palouse River and Coulee City Railroad (WATCO) consented to entry of an Order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.
  
- 3     Currently, there are no railroad warning devices at the crossing. Commission staff notified WATCO on October 8, 2010, that cross-bucks need to be installed immediately.
  
- 4     East Moore Street is classified as a local access road with a speed limit of 25 miles per hour. Average daily traffic through the crossing is anticipated to be 1,250 vehicles, including five percent commercial motor vehicle traffic by 2011. No school buses travel over the crossing. Currently, East Moore Street does not have any roadway striping or curb and gutter.

- 5 WATCO maintains one mainline track at this location. Average weekly train traffic is less than one train and no passenger trains use the crossing. The authorized speed is 10 miles per hour for freight trains.
- 6 The City proposes to install six foot wide sidewalks on both sides of the roadway. Concrete crossing panels will be added to the existing crossing surface on both ends which will extend the length of the crossing to accommodate pedestrian use. The city will be installing curb and gutter and constructing sidewalks which will lead up to the crossing and be responsible for long term maintenance the sidewalks. The City will also define three vehicle travel lanes with appropriate striping.
- 7 The proposed installation of sidewalks and concrete crossing panels are in the interest of improving safety for pedestrian users by providing a path to safely cross the railroad-highway grade crossing. Staff recommends that the petition be granted subject to the condition that the City provide additional passive traffic control devices, including standard “Yield” signs mounted under the cross-bucks and retroreflective tape on the sign posts and as specified by U.S. Department of Transportation, 2009 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) standard in Section 8B-2. (See Attachment 1). Further Staff recommends installation of emergency notification signs, as specified in MUTCD, Section 8B.18.

### **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 8 (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*.
- 9 (2) The East Moore Street grade crossing, identified as USDOT #097098A, is a public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington.
- 10 (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.
- 11 (4) Commission Staff investigated the petition and recommended that it be granted with the following conditions:

- (a) In addition to the cross-bucks and on the same sign posts, the City must install standard “Yield” signs as specified by MUTCD standard in Section 8B-3.
  - (b) The City must install retroreflective tape on the reverse side of the cross-bucks and sign posts as specified by MUTCD standard in Section 8B-3.
  - (c) The City must install emergency notification signs such I-13, as specified by MUTCD standard in Section 8B-18.
- 12 (5) After examination of the petition filed by the City of Walla Walla on September 8, 2010, giving consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission grants the petition.

**ORDER**

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS:**

- 13 The petition of the City of Walla Walla to install sidewalks and extend the crossing surface at the crossing located at the intersection of East Moore Street and WATCO Transportation’s tracks in Walla Walla is granted. Approval of the petition is subject to the following conditions:
- (1) The modifications must conform to those described in the petition.
  - (2) In addition to the cross-bucks and on the same sign posts, the City must install standard “Yield” signs as specified by MUTCD standard in Section 8B-3.
  - (3) The City must install retroreflective tape on the reverse side of the cross-bucks and sign posts as specified by MUTCD standard in Section 8B-3.
  - (4) The City must install emergency notification signs such as I-13, as specified by MUTCD standard in Section 8B-18.
  - (5) Petitioner must notify Commission Staff within 30 days upon completion of this project.

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 October 27, 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).