

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

In the Matter of the Petition of)	DOCKET TR-110927
)	
SIMPSON TIMBER COMPANY,)	ORDER 01
)	
Petitioner,)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
)	UPGRADE ACTIVE WARNING
)	DEVICES AND AUTHORIZING
)	EXPENDITURE FROM THE GRADE
)	CROSSING PROTECTIVE FUND
Seeking Approval to Upgrade Signals)	
at a Railroad-Highway Grade Crossing)	USDOT: 856749G
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On May 19, 2011, Simpson Timber Company (Simpson Timber or Petitioner) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission), a petition seeking approval to upgrade active warning devices at a railroad-highway grade crossing. The crossing is identified as USDOT 856749G and is located at the intersection of Railroad Avenue/11th Street (Railroad Avenue) and Petitioner’s tracks in the City of Shelton. Petitioner further requested the Commission authorize an expenditure of \$6,342.90 from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund (GCPF) to pay for a portion of the upgrades.
- 2 Railroad warning devices at the Railroad Avenue crossing consist of cantilever and shoulder mounted flashing lights and cross-bucks. Railroad Avenue has two cantilever mounted warning devices and 11th Street has two shoulder mounted warning devices due to the unique configuration of the crossing. Petitioner proposes to upgrade the incandescent flashing lights and power off light to LED, replace the cross-bucks and install an electronic bell. These upgrades will improve the overall safety at the crossing because motorists and pedestrians can rely on these active warning devices to determine if a train is approaching the crossing. The LED flashing lights will provide greater visibility for the motoring public.
- 3 Railroad Avenue is a two lane roadway with a posted speed limit of 25 miles per hour. Average daily traffic through the crossing is estimated at 1,100 vehicles which includes six school buses. Eight freight trains per day operate at 10 miles per hour over the single track crossing.

4 Petitioner is requesting a disbursement of \$6,342.90 to pay for a portion of the upgrades. Petitioner is contributing the cost of labor for installation of the upgrades. The total approximate cost of the project, exclusive of labor is \$6,342.90. An expenditure of \$6,342.90 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 crossing at Railroad Avenue/11th Street, identified as USDOT 856749G, is a public railroad-highway grade crossing 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.
- 10 (6) After reviewing Simpson Timber's petition filed on May 19, 2011, and giving due consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission grants the petition and request for disbursement of funds.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

11 Simpson Timber Company's petition to upgrade warning devices at a railroad-highway grade crossing, located at Railroad Avenue/11th Street, 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:

- (1) Expenditure from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must not exceed \$6,342.90.
- (2) Payment will be made upon presentation of claim for reimbursement for materials, and verification by Commission Staff that the work has been satisfactorily completed.
- (3) Simpson Timber Company must sign and return the attached project agreement.
- (4) The project must be completed no later than June 15, 2011.
- (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) Simpson Timber Company 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 May 27, 2011.

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).