

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

PIERCE COUNTY,)	DOCKET TR-121456
)	
Petitioner,)	ORDER 01
)	
v.)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION FOR
)	INTERCONNECTION OF RAILROAD
TACOMA RAIL,)	WARNING SIGNALS AND TRAFFIC
)	SIGNALS AT CANYON ROAD EAST
)	
Respondent.)	
)	USDOT: 397135D
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On September 4, 2012, Pierce County (County) filed a petition with the Commission seeking approval to interconnect a proposed traffic signal which will be located at the intersection of Canyon Road East and Frederickson Industrial Park Road East with the railroad crossing signal located on Canyon Road East. The interconnection of the traffic signal and railroad warning devices is part of a County project to install a new traffic signal at this intersection. The crossing is located on Canyon Road East and Tacoma Rail’s tracks in Pierce county.
- 2 Tacoma Rail, Respondent, consented to an entry of an Order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.
- 3 Canyon Road East is a four-lane roadway with two lanes in each direction. Average daily vehicle traffic over the crossing is estimated at 18,500, which includes approximately 10 percent commercial motor vehicles. Average daily train traffic is one train per day, traveling up to 10 miles per hour. No passenger trains use the tracks at this crossing.
- 4 Current warning devices at the crossing include cantilever-mounted signals, cross-bucks, pavement markings, and advance warning signs.
- 5 The County plans to install a new traffic signal at the intersection of Frederickson Industrial Park Road East and Canyon Road East and requests interconnection of this new traffic signal with the existing railroad signals. The County is requesting that the current 28 seconds of warning time be increased to 32 seconds. The additional warning

time is necessary to ensure that all vehicle traffic will clear the crossing before a train arrives. In addition to installation of the new traffic signal, Pierce County is improving both roadways with turn lanes, sidewalks and curb and gutters. The concrete crossing surface will also be extended on both sides of the crossing in anticipation of future pedestrian enhancements at the crossing.

- 6 The proposed upgrades are in the interest of improving safety for roadway users. The proposed interconnection of the new traffic signal and the railroad crossing signals will ensure that all vehicles will clear the crossing prior to a train approaching.

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 Canyon Road East crossing, identified as USDOT 397135D 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 (5) Commission Staff investigated the petition and recommended that it be granted.
- 11 (6) After examination of the petition filed by Pierce County on September 4, 2012, 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 Pierce County to interconnect warning devices at a railroad-highway grade crossing, located at Canyon Road East and the Respondent's tracks in Pierce 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) Upon completion of the authorized modifications, 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 as specified in this order.

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 September 20, 2012.

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).