

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

)	DOCKET TR-132307
)	
CITY OF SNOQUALMIE,)	ORDER 01
)	
Petitioner,)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION FOR
)	PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS AT
v.)	THE SOUTHEAST FIR STREET
)	CROSSING IN SNOQUALMIE
NORTHWEST RAILWAY)	
MUSEUM,)	
)	USDOT: 092024R
Respondent.)	
)	
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On December 19, 2013, the City of Snoqualmie (Petitioner or City) filed a petition with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission), seeking approval to install sidewalks at a railroad-highway grade crossing. The crossing is identified as USDOT 092024R and located at the intersection of Southeast Fir Street and the Northwest Railway Museum’s (Northwest Railway) tracks in Snoqualmie, Washington. The installation of sidewalks is part of the City’s Town Center Infrastructure Improvement Project; Phase I. Project improvements include creating additional parking, constructing new sidewalks, and installing light poles, benches, bike racks, landscaping, and garbage and recycle receptacles.
- 2 The Northwest Railway Museum, Respondent, consented to entry of an Order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.
- 3 Railroad warning devices at the Southeast Fir Street grade crossing consist of crossbucks and advance warning signs. The Petitioner proposes to install pedestrian sidewalks on the east side of the crossing. The proposed concrete sidewalks will be eight feet wide on the north side and nine feet wide on the south side of the crossing. The proposed concrete sidewalks will provide a smooth surface for pedestrians traversing the crossing, and are consistent with the existing concrete crossing surface. The variance in sidewalk width is due to matching the existing footprint of the crossing and roadway. The Petitioner proposes to maintain the current warning signs on both approaches.

4 Southeast Fir Street is a two-lane roadway with a posted speed limit of 25 miles per hour. Average daily vehicle traffic through the crossing is estimated at 360 vehicles which includes up to 64 school buses. On average four passenger trains per day operate at up to 15 miles per hour over the single track crossing. During seasonal peaks up to 32 trains operate per week and as few as two per week during the winter months.

5 The proposed sidewalks are in the interest of improving safety for pedestrian users. The sidewalks will ensure that pedestrians have a designated path to safely cross the grade crossing. In addition to the installation of the sidewalks, Commission staff recommends granting the City of Snoqualmie’s petition subject to the following conditions:

- In addition to maintaining the crossbucks, the Petitioner must coordinate with the Northwest Railway Museum and install standard “yield signs” on both approaches to the crossing and retroreflective tape to the sign posts.
- The Petitioner must coordinate with the Northwest Railway Museum and install emergency notification signs (I-13) to provide emergency notification information.
- Traffic control devices must comply with all applicable standards specified in the 2009 U.S. Department of Transportation Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.
- Upon completion of the sidewalks and installation of yield and emergency notification signs authorized herein, Petitioner must notify the Commission within 60 days. 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.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

6 (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.*

7 (2) The Southeast Fir Street grade crossing, identified as USDOT 092024R is a public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington.

- 8 (3) WAC 480-62-150(1)(g) requires that the Commission grant approval prior to any changes to crossing at public railroad-highway grade crossings within the state of Washington.
- 9 (4) Commission Staff investigated the petition and recommended that it be granted.
- 10 (5) After examination of the petition filed by the City of Snoqualmie on December 19, 2013, and giving consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission grants the petition.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 11 The petition of the City of Snoqualmie to install sidewalks at a railroad-highway grade crossing, located at the intersection of Southeast Fir Street and Northwest Railway Museum's tracks in Snoqualmie, 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) In addition to maintaining the crossbucks, the Petitioner must coordinate with the Northwest Railway Museum and install standard yield signs on both approaches to the crossing and retroreflective tape to the sign posts.
 - (3) The Petitioner must coordinate with the Northwest Railway Museum and install emergency notification signs (I-13) to provide emergency notification information.
 - (4) Traffic control devices must comply with all applicable standards specified in the 2009 U.S. Department of Transportation *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.
 - (5) Upon completion of the sidewalks and installation of yield and emergency notification signs authorized herein, Petitioner must notify the Commission within 60 days. 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 Secretary of the Commission has delegated authority over this matter pursuant to Order 04 in Docket A-090485. The Secretary finds this Order to be consistent with the public interest.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective January 15, 2014.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

STEVEN V. KING, 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).