

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

CITY OF STEVENSON,)	DOCKET TR-151762
)	
Petitioner,)	ORDER 01
)	
)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
)	MODIFY A PUBLIC HIGHWAY-RAIL
)	GRADE CROSSING AND UPGRADE
BNSF RAILWAY CO.,)	WARNING DEVICES AT RUSSELL
)	AVENUE
Respondent.)	
)	
)	USDOT: #090148C
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On August 27, 2015, the City of Stevenson (City or Petitioner) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a petition seeking approval to modify a railroad-highway grade crossing and upgrade warning devices. The crossing is identified as USDOT #090148C and is located at the intersection of Russell Avenue and BNSF Railway Co.'s (BNSF) tracks in Stevenson.

- 2 Respondent BNSF consented to entry of an Order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.

- 3 Current railroad warning devices at the crossing consist of cantilever-mounted flashing lights and gates.

- 4 Russell Avenue is a two-lane road with a posted vehicle speed limit of 25 miles per hour. Average annual daily traffic through the crossing is estimated at 361 vehicles. Russell Avenue is not part of an established truck route and no school buses use the crossing.

- 5 There are three tracks at the crossing including one main-line track and two siding tracks. Forty freight trains and four passenger trains operate over the crossing per day. The authorized train speed for both freight and passenger trains is 60 miles per hour; however, the current operating speed is 20 miles per hour.

6 The City has discussed with Commission staff its intention to implement a quiet zone in the area of the Russell Avenue crossing. In order to qualify for a quiet zone under current federal rules, the City is upgrading the existing warning devices. The City will install shoulder-mounted four-quadrant gates, flashing lights with LED lenses, pedestrian bells and vehicle detection loops. Constant warning train detections is already present on the mainline track through the crossing. New eight-foot concrete sidewalks with tactile strips will be installed on both sides of the crossing. The tactile strips warn pedestrians of a change in walking surface and provide a stop line to stand behind when a train is occupying the crossing. Flangeway filler will be installed on both sides of the rail and will provide a smooth surface for walking pedestrians, bicyclists and wheelchair users. Installation of flangeway filler is in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.

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 81.53 RCW.*
- 8 (2) The Russell Avenue grade crossing, identified as USDOT #090148C, is a public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington.
- 9 (3) RCW 81.53.261 and WAC 480-62-150 require that the Commission grant approval prior to modifying a public railroad-highway grade crossing or upgrading active crossing warning signals or devices within the state of Washington.
- 10 (4) Commission Staff investigated the petition and recommended that it be granted with conditions.
- 11 (5) After examination of the petition filed by the City of Stevenson on August 27, 2015, 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 the City of Stevenson to modify a railroad-highway grade crossing and upgrade warning devices at the intersection of Russell Avenue and Respondent's tracks in the city of Stevenson is granted. Approval of the petition is subject to the following conditions:

- (1) The modifications must conform to those described and attached to 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.

The Secretary of the Commission has delegated authority over this matter pursuant to Order 03 in Docket A-090485. The Secretary finds this Order to be consistent with the public interest.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective August 31, 2015.

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).