

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON STATE	)	DOCKET TR-152110
DEPARTMENT OF	)	
TRANSPORTATION,	)	ORDER 01
	)	
Petitioner,	)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
	)	MODIFY A PUBLIC HIGHWAY-RAIL
	)	GRADE CROSSING AT STATE
PORT OF COLUMBIA AND	)	ROUTE 125 (NEAR PRESCOTT) IN
WATCO COMPANIES,	)	WALLA WALLA COUNTY
Respondents.	)	
	)	USDOT: 808632U
	)	

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**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On November 5, 2015, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT or  
Petitioner) filed a petition with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
(Commission) seeking approval to modify a railroad-highway grade crossing at State Route  
125 (SR-125) near Prescott in Walla Walla County. WSDOT proposes to modify active  
warning devices and install additional signage.
- 2 The Port of Columbia (Port) owns the tracks and Watco Companies (Watco) operates on the  
tracks. The Port and Watco consented to entry of an Order by the Commission without  
further notice or hearing.
- 3 SR-125 is a two-lane roadway with a posted speed limit of 55 miles per hour. Average  
annual daily traffic through the crossing is estimated at 530 vehicles. SR-125 is an  
established truck route which includes 23 percent commercial motor vehicles. Two school  
buses travel over the crossing daily.
- 4 There is one mainline track at this location. The authorized speed limit for freight trains is  
10 miles per hour and up to two freight trains operate over the crossing daily. No passenger  
trains operate over the crossing.
- 5 Railroad warning devices at the SR-125 crossing consist of shoulder-mounted flashing lights  
and crossbucks.

- 6 WSDOT proposes to upgrade the incandescent flashing lights to LED. The LED lights will improve visibility when the active warning devices are activated for motorists and pedestrians using the crossing. WSDOT also proposes to install back-to-back crossbucks on both approaches to the crossing, as well as “skewed crossing” (W10-12) signage to warn road users that the tracks are not perpendicular to the highway. Improvements to the crossing are funded by the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Railroad Highways Crossings Section 130 program.
- 7 The proposed upgrades are in the interest of improving the overall safety and convenience for roadway users.

### 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 proposed modification of a crossing involves a public railroad-highway grade crossing, as defined in RCW 81.53.010.
- 10 (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 within the state of Washington.
- 11 (4) Commission staff investigated the petition and recommends that it be granted. All traffic control devices must comply with all applicable standards specified in the U.S. Department of Transportation *2009 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.*
- 12 (5) After examination of the petition filed by Washington State Department of Transportation on November 5, 2015, and 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 Washington State Department of Transportation to modify a railroad-highway grade crossing at State Route 125 and the Respondents' tracks in Walla Walla 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 *2009 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.
- (3) Petitioner must notify Commission Staff within 30 days upon completion of this project.

The Secretary of the Commission has delegated authority over this matter pursuant to Order 01 in Docket A-151775. The Secretary finds this Order to be consistent with the public interest.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective November 20, 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).