

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

TACOMA RAIL,	)	DOCKET NO. TR-040300
	)	
Petitioner,	)	ORDER NO. 01
	)	
v.	)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
	)	UPGRADE WARNING DEVICES AT
CHEHALIS, WASHINGTON,	)	A RAILROAD-HIGHWAY GRADE
	)	CROSSING
Respondent.	)	
	)	USDOT: 396781D
	)	WUTC: 20J 17.80
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1     On February 17, 2004, Tacoma Rail filed a petition with the Commission, seeking approval to upgrade warning devices at a railroad-highway grade crossing. The crossing is located at the intersection of the petitioner’s tracks and West Street, in the SE ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 30, Township 14 N., Range 2 W., W.M., in Chehalis, Washington. Funding for the upgrades is pursuant to the Inter-modal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, in cooperation with the Washington State Department of Transportation.
- 2     Respondent has consented to an entry of an Order by the Commission without further notice or hearing under the condition that Tacoma Rail accepts the following terms: “The City of Chehalis will not be responsible for any cost to repair/replace any damage to signals/gates caused by Tacoma Rail or third parties.” Petitioner has verified that this condition is acceptable.
- 3     In the vicinity of the crossing, West Street is classified as a collector roadway, with one lane for each direction of traffic and a vehicle speed limit of 25 mph. Average daily traffic through the crossing is estimated at 3,000 vehicles.

4 Petitioner maintains one main track through the crossing. Average train traffic  
across West Street is estimated at one train per day.

5 Warning devices at the crossing consist of passive devices, including crossbucks  
and advance warning signs. Petitioner seeks to install shoulder-mounted  
flashing light signals with gates. The upgrades are proposed in the interest of  
improving safety for roadway users.

### 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 West Street grade crossing, identified as USDOT 396781D, is a public  
railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington.

8 (3) RCW 81.53.261 requires that the Commission grant approval prior to any  
changes in the method and manner of traffic control at public railroad-  
highway grade crossings within the state of Washington.

9 (4) Commission Staff investigated the petition and recommended that it be  
granted, subject to specified conditions.

10 (5) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled  
meeting on March 12, 2004.

11 (6) After examination of the petition filed by Tacoma Rail on February 17,  
2004, 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 Tacoma Rail to upgrade warning devices at a public railroad-highway grade crossing, located at the intersection of West Street and the petitioner's tracks, in Chehalis, Washington, is granted, subject to the following conditions:
- (1) The upgrades must conform to the specifications filed in this proceeding.
  - (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) Traffic control devices and instrument housing must be installed in such a manner as to provide required clearances from both the roadway and railroad tracks.
  - (4) Upon completion of the upgrades authorized herein, 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 specified herein.

The Commissioners, having determined that this filing complies with the requirements of RCW 81.53.261, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

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DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2004

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary