

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

TACOMA RAIL,)	DOCKET NO. TR-041470
)	
Petitioner,)	ORDER NO. 01
)	
v.)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
)	UPGRADE RAILROAD WARNING
THURSTON COUNTY,)	DEVICES AT BALD HILLS ROAD
)	
Respondent)	USDOT: 396726D
)	WUTC: 20H 29.90
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On August 13, 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 Bald Hills Road and the petitioner’s tracks, in the SW ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 29, Township 17 N., Range 2 E., W.M., in Thurston County, 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.
- 3 In the vicinity of the crossing, Bald Hills Road is classified as a major collector roadway, with one lane for each direction of traffic and a vehicle speed limit of 40 mph. Sight distance at the crossing is diminished by vegetation within the crossing’s quadrants. Average daily traffic through the crossing is estimated at 6,100 vehicles, including 90 trucks and 16 school bus trips. Average daily traffic is expected to reach 9,000 by 2024.

4 Petitioner maintains one mainline track through the crossing. Average daily
train traffic includes two freight trains, traveling at a maximum speed of 20 mph.
Daily train traffic is expected to increase to four by 2006.

5 Warning devices at the crossing consist of older rotatable cantilever-mounted
signals. Petitioner seeks to install walkout-type cantilever-mounted signals, as
well as upgrade train detection circuitry. The improvements 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 Bald Hills Road grade crossing, identified as USDOT 396726D, 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 a
change 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 September 22, 2004.

11 (6) After examination of the petition filed by Tacoma Rail on August 13, 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 railroad-highway grade crossing, located at the intersection of Bald Hills Road and the petitioner's tracks, in Thurston County, Washington, is granted, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) The upgrades must conform to the plans 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 22nd day of September, 2004.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary