

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON STATE	)	DOCKET TR-140816
DEPARTMENT OF	)	
TRANSPORTATION,	)	ORDER 01
	)	
Petitioner,	)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
	)	MODIFY A PUBLIC HIGHWAY-RAIL
	)	GRADE CROSSING AT STATE
BNSF RAILWAY CO.,	)	ROUTE 20/SOUTH BURLINGTON
	)	BOULEVARD IN BURLINGTON
Respondent.	)	
	)	USDOT: 092255Y
	)	

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**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On May 6, 2014, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT or Petitioner) filed a petition with the Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) seeking approval to modify a railroad-highway grade crossing at State Route 20/South Burlington Boulevard (SR-20) in Burlington. WSDOT proposes to install raised median curbs in the medians on the approaches to the crossing.
- 2 BNSF Railway Co. (BNSF) consented to entry of an Order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.
- 3 SR-20 is a four-lane principal arterial with a shared center turn lane. The posted speed limit of 35 miles per hour. Average annual daily traffic through the crossing is estimated at 19,161 vehicles. SR-20 is a designated truck route which includes six and one-half percent commercial motor vehicles and up to 50 school bus trips per day.
- 4 BNSF currently maintains one main line track at this location. The authorized speed limit for freight trains is 25 miles per hour and two freight trains operate over the crossing on a daily basis. No passenger trains operate over the crossing.
- 5 Railroad warning devices at the SR-20 crossing consist of cantilever mounted lights, crossbucks and advance warning signs.
- 6 In addition to the raised median curbs that WSDOT is proposing to add to the crossing approaches, BNSF plans to install railroad gates. The gates will provide a physical barrier to the crossing for motorists upon activation of the railroad warning devices. The new median curbs and gates will decrease the possibility of motorists driving around activated gates.

Approximately 30 feet of raised median curbing will be installed on the south approach to the crossing and 75 feet on the north side. BNSF will also extend the crossing surface to match up with the existing sidewalks, which will provide pedestrians with a smooth and continuous pathway over the crossing.

- 7 The proposed upgrades are in the interest of improving safety and convenience for roadway and pedestrian 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 May 6, 2014, 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 modify a railroad-highway grade crossing at State Route 20 and the Respondent's tracks in Burlington 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 03 in Docket A-090485. The Secretary finds this Order to be consistent with the public interest.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective October 2, 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).