**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON**

**UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

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| WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION,  Petitioner,    WATCO COMPANIES and UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD  Respondents.  . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . | ) ) ) ) ) ) ) ) ) )  )  ) | DOCKET TR-152022  ORDER 01  ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO MODIFY A PUBLIC HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE CROSSING AT STATE ROUTE 125/SOUTH 9th AVENUE IN WALLA WALLA  USDOT: 808942N |

BACKGROUND

1. On October 23, 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/South 9th Avenue (SR-125) in Walla Walla. WSDOT proposes to modify active warning signals and install signage.
2. Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) owns the rail line and Watco Companies (Watco) operates on the tracks. UPRR and Watco consented to entry of an Order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.
3. SR-125 is a five-lane urban principal arterial roadway with a posted speed limit of 30 miles per hour. Average annual daily traffic through the crossing is estimated at 19,000 vehicles. SR-125 is an established truck route which includes eight percent commercial motor vehicles and up to two school bus trips per day.
4. There is one mainline track at this location. The authorized speed limit for freight trains is 10 miles per hour and one freight train operates over the crossing on a daily basis. No passenger trains operate over the crossing.
5. Railroad warning devices at the SR-125 crossing consist of cantilever-mounted eight-inch flashing lights.
6. WSDOT proposes to install new walk-out style cantilevers, which will cover all lanes of traffic, with 12-inch LED lights. The larger LED lights improve visibility when the active warning devices are activated for motorists and pedestrians using the crossing. In addition, WSDOT proposes to install “Do Not Stop on Tracks” signs on both approaches to the crossing. 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 safety and convenience for roadway users.

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

1. (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.*
2. (2)The proposed modification of a crossing involves a public railroad-highway grade crossing, as defined in RCW 81.53.010.
3. (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.
4. (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.*
5. (5) After examination of the petition filed by Washington State Department of Transportation on October 23, 2015, and giving consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission grants the petition.

O R D E R

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

1. The petition of the Washington State Department of Transportation to modify a railroad-highway grade crossing at State Route 125 and the Respondent’s 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 18, 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).