

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of

WASHINGTON STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION,

Petitioner,

CLARK COUNTY, and

PORTLAND VANCOUVER  
JUNCTION RAILROAD,

Respondents.

DOCKET TR-180171

ORDER 01

ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO  
MODIFY A PUBLIC HIGHWAY-RAIL  
GRADE CROSSING AT STATE  
ROUTE 503 NEAR BATTLEGROUND

USDOT: 917071H

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On February 27, 2018, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission), a petition seeking approval to modify a railroad-highway grade crossing located at State Route 503 (SR-503) near Battleground, identified as USDOT 917071H.
- 2 The respondents, Clark County (County or Petitioner), owner of the Chelatchie Prairie Railroad, and the Portland Vancouver Junction Railroad (POVA), the operating railroad, consented to entry of an Order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.
- 3 SR-503 is a four-lane highway with a posted vehicle speed limit of 55 miles per hour. Average annual daily traffic through the crossing is estimated at 25,000 vehicles. SR-503 is part of an established truck route with approximately six percent commercial vehicle traffic, including 10 school buses traveling over the crossing daily.
- 4 Warning devices at the SR-503 crossing consist of cantilever-mounted, flashing LED lights and gates, advance warning signs, and crossbucks. POVA operates one freight train over this single mainline track crossing two times each week at 10 miles per hour. No passenger trains operate on this line.
- 5 WSDOT proposes to widen the roadway to install bus pull-out lanes at the SR-503 crossing. POVA will extend the crossing surface by adding crossing panels on the west

side of the highway to accommodate the widened roadway. These improvements are funded by the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Railroad Highways Crossings Section 130 program.

6 The proposed modifications will provide a safe location for buses to complete the required railroad crossing stopping procedures, which will also improve overall safety for roadway users.

### FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 7 (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.*
- 8 (2) The SR-503 grade crossing, identified as USDOT 917071H, is a public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington.
- 9 (3) RCW 81.53.261 requires that the Commission grant approval prior to modifying a public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington. *See also 480-62-150.*
- 10 (4) Commission Staff investigated the petition and recommended that it be granted with conditions.
- 11 (5) After examination of the petition filed by WSDOT on February 27, 2018, 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 WSDOT to modify a railroad-highway grade crossing located at SR-503 near Battleground is granted. Approval of the petition is subject to the following conditions:

- (1) The modifications must conform to those described in and attached to the petition.

- (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) Upon completion of the modifications authorized herein, WSDOT must notify the Commission within 60 days. 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 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 March 5, 2018.

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 website 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 website. 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 website.

This notice and review process is pursuant to the provisions of RCW 80.01.030 and WAC 480-07-904(2) and (3).