

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of

CLARK COUNTY,

Petitioner,

PORTLAND VANCOUVER
JUNCTION RAILROAD,

Respondent.

DOCKET TR-180617

ORDER 01

ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
MODIFY WARNING DEVICES AT A
PUBLIC HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE
CROSSING AT NE 119TH STREET
NEAR VANCOUVER

USDOT: 852436D

BACKGROUND

- 1 On July 19, 2018, Clark County Public Works (County or Petitioner), filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission), a petition seeking approval to modify warning devices at a railroad-highway grade crossing located at NE 119th Street near Vancouver, identified as USDOT 852436D.
- 2 The Portland Vancouver Junction Railroad (POVA), the operating railroad, consented to entry of an Order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.
- 3 NE 119th Street is a two-lane rural local road with a posted vehicle speed limit of 45 miles per hour. Average annual daily traffic through the crossing is estimated at 12,809 vehicles. NE 119th Street is part of an established truck route with approximately 10 percent commercial vehicle traffic, including 70 school buses traveling over the crossing daily.
- 4 Warning devices at the NE 119th Street crossing consist of shoulder-mounted, flashing LED lights, 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 The proposed changes to the NE 119th Street crossing are part of a County capital roadway project, which includes widening the road from two lanes to four, as well as adding center turn lanes, sidewalks, and bike lanes. At the crossing, the County proposes to install cantilever-mounted flashing lights and gates and extend the crossing surface

five panels in each direction to accommodate the widened roadway, The County will also install 10-foot-wide, six-inch-high center island medians on each approach (95 feet on the west and 150 feet on the east). Guardrail will be installed to protect the railroad signals. The existing bungalow will be relocated and retrofitted to include a connection to the County's Intelligent Transportation System to allow for remote monitoring of crossing functions. Pedestrian walkways will be installed, along with pedestrian flashers and detectable warning surfaces. Signs and pavement markings will be updated or replaced.

6 The proposed modifications will improve overall safety for roadway users and pedestrians.

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 NE 119th Street grade crossing, identified as USDOT 852436D, 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 Clark County on July 19, 2018, and giving consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission grants the petition.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

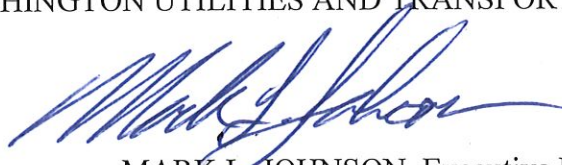
- 12 The petition of Clark County to modify a railroad-highway grade crossing located at NE 119th Street near Vancouver is granted. Approval of the petition is subject to the following conditions:

- (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, Clark County 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 July 25, 2018.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION



MARK L. JOHNSON, 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).