

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION,

Petitioner,

PUGET SOUND & PACIFIC
RAILROAD,

Respondent.

DOCKET TR-190617

ORDER 01

GRANTING PETITION TO MODIFY
WARNING DEVICES AT A PUBLIC
HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE
CROSSING AT STATE ROUTE 108
IN MASON COUNTY

USDOT: 096557P

BACKGROUND

- 1 On July 22, 2019, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT 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 State Route 108 (SR-108), identified as USDOT
096557P.
- 2 Respondent Puget Sound & Pacific Railroad (PSAP) consented to entry of an Order by
the Commission without further notice or hearing.
- 3 SR-108 is a two-lane road with a posted vehicle speed limit of 50 miles per hour.
Average annual daily traffic through the crossing is estimated at 3,500 vehicles. SR-108
is part of an established school bus route with 10 school buses traveling over the crossing
daily. SR-108 is also part of an established truck route with approximately 10 percent
commercial vehicle traffic.
- 4 Warning devices at the SR-108 crossing consist of advance warning signs, crossbucks,
shoulder and cantilever-mounted flashing lights. PSAP operates four freight trains per
day over this single main line track crossing at 25 miles per hour. No passenger trains
travel over the crossing.
- 5 As part of this project, the cantilevers will be removed and crossing gates will be added.
All crossing warning lights will be upgraded to LEDs. New concrete crossing panels will
be added and roadway improvements will be made so the crossing surfaces matches the
roadway elevation. Active advance warning signs will be installed, and all signs and

pavement markings will be replaced. Guard rails will be installed to protect roadside infrastructure. These improvements are funded by the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Railway-Highway Crossings (Section 130) program.

- 6 Commission staff (Staff) investigated the petition and recommends that it be granted 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 (MUTCD), and (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 Staff, verifying that the crossing is in full compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and the conditions specified herein.

DISCUSSION

- 7 RCW 81.53.261 requires that the Commission grant approval prior to modifying a public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington. We find that the proposed modifications will improve overall safety for roadway users. Accordingly, the Commission grants the petition subject to the conditions that Staff recommends.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington having jurisdiction over public railroad-highway grade crossings within the state of Washington.
- 9 (2) The SR-108 grade crossing, identified as USDOT 096557P, is a public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington.
- 10 (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.
- 11 (4) Staff investigated the petition and recommends that it be granted with the conditions set out in paragraph 6, above.
- 12 (5) After examination of the petition filed by WSDOT on July 22, 2019, and giving consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission grants the petition.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

13 WSDOT's petition to modify a railroad-highway grade crossing located at SR-108 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 MUTCD.
- (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 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-180762. The Secretary finds this Order to be consistent with the public interest.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective July 29, 2019.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION



MARK L. JOHNSON, Executive Director and Secretary

NOTICE TO PARTIES: This is an order delegated to the Executive Secretary for decision. As authorized in WAC 480-07-904(3), you must file any request for Commission review of this order no later than 14 days after the date the decision is posted on the Commission's website.

