



Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission pursuant to RCW 81.53.060 (i.e. exempt sign) gives notice that the stopping requirement imposed by this section does not apply.” Since there is no train traffic on the line, the purpose of the stopping requirement is defeated. Staff requested that the Commission authorize the installation of these signs at the 14 crossings listed in the attachment in the interest of improving traffic efficiency and reducing the potential for rear-end collisions related to vehicle stops. Commission Staff asks that the authority be limited by certain conditions, specified in the request and set out in the ordering portion of the Order, below.

- 4 Yakima County has agreed to install the signs denoting the exemption, and has asked that as long as the crossings are designated as exempt, they be relieved of their duty to repaint the railroad pavement markings on the roadway approaches to each of the crossings. It has also committed, in writing, that it will remove the exempt signs and that it will repaint the pavement markings prior to any resumption in train traffic.

#### FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5 (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.*
- 6 (2) The 14 railroad-highway grade crossings listed in the attachment to this Order are public crossings within the state of Washington.
- 7 (3) Each of the crossings is the intersection of a Yakima County public roadway with the “1W” line of the Yakima Interurban Lines Association. The Association does not operate on-track equipment of any kind on the line, and has no intention to do so in the foreseeable future. The Association has committed that it will notify the Commission and Yakima

County prior to resuming operations, and that it will not conduct operations until the crossings are properly signed for operations.

- 8 (4) RCW 81.53.060 requires that the Commission grant approval prior to the modification of warning devices at public railroad-highway grade crossings within the State of Washington.
- 9 (5) Commission Staff recommended that the Commission authorize the installation of R15-3 "exempt" signs at each of the 14 railroad-highway grade crossings listed in the attachment to this Order, subject to specified conditions.
- 10 (6) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on April 23, 2003.
- 11 (7) After examination of the request by Commission Staff on April 23, 2003, and giving consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission authorizes the installation of "exempt" signs at the crossings, subject to the conditions set out in the Order, below.

## ORDER

### THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 12 The Commission authorizes the installation of R15-3 "exempt" signs at the 14 railroad-highway grade crossing located along the 1W line and listed in the attachment to this Order, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) The installations must comply with applicable standards specified in the U.S. Department of Transportation *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.

- (2) The Yakima Interurban Lines Association or any successor railroad company proposing to operate trains over tracks through any of the crossings must notify Yakima County and the Commission, in writing, at least 30 days prior to any resumption in rail traffic on the 1W line at any crossing authorized for "exempt" signage in this Order.
- (3) Yakima County must remove the exempt signs and must repaint the railroad pavement markings on the roadway approaches on any affected crossing prior to any resumption of rail traffic on the 1W line.
- (4) Upon completion of the installations authorized in this Order, Yakima County must notify the Commission. Acceptance of the installations is subject to inspection by Commission Staff, verifying that the crossings are in full compliance with law, regulation, and the conditions specified herein.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2003.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARILYN SHOWALTER, Chairwoman

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner