

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON STATE)	DOCKET TR-051922
DEPARTMENT OF)	
TRANSPORTATION,)	ORDER 01
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
v.)	INTERCONNECT RAILROAD
)	WARNING SIGNALS AND HIGHWAY
BNSF RAILWAY,)	TRAFFIC SIGNALS
)	
Respondent)	USDOT: 084841X
)	WUTC: 2B 109.40
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On December 12, 2005, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) filed a petition with the Commission, seeking approval to interconnect railroad warning signals and highway traffic signals at a railroad-highway grade crossing. The crossing is located at the intersection of BNSF Railway tracks and State Route 548, also known as Grandview Road, at milepost 0.31 in Whatcom County, Washington.
- 2 On May 26, 2006, Respondent consented to an entry of an Order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.
- 3 WSDOT estimates average daily vehicle traffic over the crossing at 8,800, 525 of which are trucks. Average daily train traffic includes 10 trains per day, traveling at maximum speeds of 79 miles per hour for passenger trains.
- 4 Current warning devices at the crossing include cantilever-mounted signals with gates.
- 5 The proposal is related to a plan by WSDOT to install highway traffic signals at the Portal Way roadway intersection, 60 feet east of the crossing. This roadway intersection is currently controlled by a stop sign. Installing the signal, however, could cause traffic to back up at a red light over the crossing at Grandview Road.
- 6 The proposed interconnection of the new traffic signal and the railroad crossing signals would ensure this situation does not occur. An approaching train will preempt the traffic

signal at Portal Way to clear any vehicles that may extend over the crossing and activate the crossing pre-signal in order to prevent any more vehicles from entering the crossing.

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 State Route 548, also known as Grandview Road, grade crossing, identified as USDOT 084841X, 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 making changes in the method and manner of traffic control at public railroad-highway grade crossings within the state of Washington.
- 10 (4) Commission Staff investigated the petition and recommended that it be granted.
- 11 (5) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on June 14, 2006.
- 12 (6) After examination of the petition filed by the Washington State Department of Transportation on December 12, 2005, and giving consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission grants the petition.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 13 The petition of the Washington State Department of Transportation to interconnect railroad warning signals and highway traffic signals at a railroad-highway grade crossing, located at the intersection of State Route 548, also known as Grandview Road, and the respondent's tracks in Whatcom County, Washington, is granted, as follows:
- (1) All installations and operations must conform to the plans and specifications filed in this proceeding.

- (2) Washington State Department of Transportation is responsible for accurate preemption phasing of the traffic light.
- (3) Upon completion of the signal interconnection, petitioner must notify the Commission.
- (4) 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 Commissioners, having determined that this filing complies with the requirements of RCW 81.53.261, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective June 14, 2006.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Executive Secretary