

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

WASHINGTON STATE)	DOCKET TR-060535
DEPARTMENT OF)	
TRANSPORTATION,)	ORDER 01
)	
Petitioner,)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
)	RECONSTRUCT A PUBLIC
v.)	RAILROAD-HIGHWAY GRADE
)	CROSSING
COLUMBIA BASIN RAILROAD)	
COMPANY,)	USDOT: 396983B
)	UTC: 34B SE16.1
Respondent.)	
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On April 6, 2006, the Washington State Department of Transportation (DOT) filed a petition with the Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission), seeking approval to reconstruct a public railroad-highway grade crossing. The reconstruction of the railroad-highway grade crossing is necessary because DOT proposes to widen the existing roadway by adding an additional lane in each direction. The location of the crossing is on SR-17 in Moses Lake, Washington. The tracks of the Columbia Basin Railroad Company cross the road at that location.
- 2 The Columbia Basin Railroad Company has consented to an entry of an order by the commission without further notice or hearing.
- 3 SR-17 is classified as an urban minor arterial with a speed limit of 50 miles per hour. DOT estimates daily traffic through the crossing consists of 15,000 vehicles within a 24-hour period, including trucks and school busses.
- 4 Columbia Basin Railroad Company maintains one track through the crossing. Average weekly train traffic consists of one freight train traveling round trip at a maximum speed of 10 miles per hour. No passenger trains use this crossing.
- 5 DOT plans to replace the existing warning system with cantilever mounted signals and gates. The train detection circuitry will also be upgraded to SCX-1 type at the crossing. These upgrades will more effectively warn motorists of an approaching train than the existing equipment.

6 Due to design restrictions on the part of both Columbia Basin Railroad Company and DOT, the gate on the eastbound approach to the crossing will only cover 6'9" of the innermost lane. The project is designed according to these restrictions and the less than 90% gate coverage will not constitute a violation of Title 49, CFR Technical Manual Part 234.223.03

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 proposed reconstruction of a crossing involves a public railroad-highway grade crossing, as defined in RCW 81.53.010.
- 9 (3) RCW 81.53.060 requires the Commission grant approval prior to reconstructing a public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington.
- 10 (4) Commission staff investigated the petition and recommends that it be granted with the conditions identified below.
- 11 (5) This filing complies with the requirements of WAC 480-62-150, RCW 81.53.030 and RCW 81.53.271.
- 12 (6) After examination of the petition filed by Washington State Department of Transportation on April 6, 2006, and giving consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission grants the petition with the conditions identified below.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 13 The petition of the Washington State Department of Transportation to reconstruct a public railroad-highway grade crossing at SR-17 and the tracks of the Columbia Basin Railroad Company in Moses Lake, Washington, is granted, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) All construction and installations must conform to the plans filed in this proceeding.
- (2) Traffic control devices, advance warning signs, and pavement markings must comply with applicable standards specified in the U.S. Department of Transportation *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.
- (3) Traffic control devices and instrument housing must be installed in such a manner as to provide required clearances for both rail and vehicular traffic.
- (4) Upon completion of the reconstruction authorized herein, Petitioner must notify the Commission.

The Executive Secretary, on behalf of the Commissioners, has determined that this filing complies with the requirements of RCW 81.53.030.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 2 day of October, 2006.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Executive Secretary