

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

WASHINGTON STATE	)	DOCKET TR-070937
DEPARTMENT OF	)	
TRANSPORTATION,	)	ORDER 01
	)	
Petitioner,	)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
	)	RECONSTRUCT A PUBLIC
v.	)	HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE CROSSING
	)	
PORT OF CHEHALIS,	)	
	)	USDOT: 848565L
Respondent	)	UTC: 37A9.90
	)	
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1     On May 10, 2007, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) filed a petition with the Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) seeking approval to reconstruct a railroad-highway grade crossing. The reconstruction of the railroad-highway grade crossing is necessary because WSDOT proposes to replace a nearby bridge, which requires shifting the roadway and crossing seven feet to the north. The location of the crossing is on SR-6 in Lewis County, Washington. The tracks of the Port of Chehalis cross the road at that location.
- 2     On May 25, 2007, The Port of Chehalis consented to entry of an Order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.
- 3     WSDOT estimates average daily vehicle traffic over the crossing at 3,500, which includes commercial motor vehicles and school busses. The posted vehicle speed is 55 miles per hour. There is currently no train traffic; however the possibility of two or more daily round trip exists in the near future.
- 4     Current warning devices at the crossing include cantilever mounted flashing lights and cross bucks.
- 5     The proposal to reconstruct and realign the crossing is part of a larger project to replace a bridge located near the crossing. Construction of the new bridge requires shifting SR-6 seven feet to the north through the crossing. Another phase of the project includes upgrading the crossing surface to concrete panels and resurfacing the area around the

bungalow to allow easier access for the signal maintainer. Because WSDOT plans to reuse and relocate the existing warning devices relative to the new edge of the roadway, no new warning devices will be added to the crossing.

- 6 The proposed upgrades are in the interest of improving safety and convenience for roadway users and railroad maintenance staff.

### 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 81.53.261 requires that 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) After examination of the petition filed by the Washington State Department of Transportation on May 10, 2007, 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 the Washington State Department of Transportation to reconstruct a railroad-highway grade crossing at SR-6 and the Respondent's tracks in Lewis County, is granted, as follows:

- (1) The modifications must conform to those described in 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) Traffic control devices and instrument housing must be installed in such a manner as to provide required clearances from both the roadway and railroad tracks.
- (4) Upon completion of the reconstruction project authorized herein, Petitioner must notify the Commission.

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 27, 2007.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Executive Secretary