

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

In the Matter of the Petition of)	DOCKET TR-072010
)	
THE WASHINGTON STATE)	ORDER 01
DEPARTMENT OF)	
TRANSPORTATION,)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
)	UPGRADE WARNING DEVICES AND
Petitioner,)	AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURE FROM
v.)	THE GRADE CROSSING PROTECTIVE
)	FUND
UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD,)	
)	USDOT: 844397U
Respondent)	UTC: 6A 224.00
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On October 10, 2007, The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) filed a petition with the Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission), seeking approval to upgrade warning devices at a railroad-highway grade crossing. The crossing is identified as USDOT 844397U and is located at State Route 124 (SR-124) and the respondent's tracks in Walla Walla County. The petitioner further requests the Commission authorize an expenditure of \$20,000 from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund (GCPF) to pay for the upgrade.
- 2 On October 19, 2007, Union Pacific Railroad consented to entry of an Order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.
- 3 Railroad warning devices at the SR-124 crossing consist of cantilever mounted 12" incandescent flashing lights and active advance warning signs along the roadway. WSDOT proposes to replace the cantilever mounted 12" incandescent lights with LED lights. In a separate roadway project, WSDOT recently replaced the incandescent beacons on the active advance warning signs with LED lights.
- 4 There have been two accidents at this crossing since 1997, including one fatality. This upgrade coupled with the improvements already completed by WSDOT to the active warning signs will increase the visibility of the warning devices under varying circumstances, such as direct sunlight, nighttime and inclement weather.

5 The petitioner is requesting a disbursement of \$20,000 to pay for the upgrades. An
expenditure of \$20,000 from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund is available to pay for
fund the improvement.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6 (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. *RCW 81.53*.
- 7 (2) The SR-124 grade crossing, identified as USDOT 844397U, is a public railroad-
highway grade crossing within the state of Washington.
- 8 (3) WAC 480-62-150 (2)(d) requires the Commission grant approval prior to any
changes to public railroad-highway grade crossings within the state of
Washington.
- 9 (4) RCW 81.53.271 allows the Commission to disburse up to \$20,000 from the Grade
Crossing Protective Fund to pay for the installation of a grade crossing protective
device, without requiring a cost-share by the petitioner.
- 10 (5) Commission staff investigated the petition and recommended that it be granted,
subject to specified conditions.
- 11 (6) After reviewing the petition filed by The Washington State Department of
Transportation on October 10, 2007, and giving consideration to all relevant
matters and for good cause shown, the Commission grants the petition and request
for disbursement of funds.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

12 The petition of The Washington State Department of Transportation to upgrade warning
devices at a railroad-highway grade crossing, located at SR-124 and the Union Pacific
Railroad tracks in Walla Walla County, Washington, is granted. The cost of this upgrade
shall be paid from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund. Approval of the petition is
subject to the following conditions:

- (1) Expenditure from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must not exceed \$20,000.
- (2) Payment will be made upon presentation of claim for reimbursement for materials and labor, and verification by Commission staff that the work has been satisfactorily completed.
- (3) The Washington State Department of Transportation must sign and return the attached project agreement.
- (4) The project must be completed no later than June 30, 2008.
- (5) Traffic control devices must comply with all applicable standards specified in the U.S. Department of Transportation *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.
- (6) Upon completion of the upgrades authorized herein, The Washington State Department of Transportation must notify the Commission. Acceptance of the changes is subject to inspection by Commission staff, verifying the crossing is in full compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and the conditions specified in this Order.

The Commissioners, having determined that this filing complies with the requirements of RCW 81.53.030, and RCW 81.53.271, directed the Executive Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective November 7, 2007.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Executive Secretary