

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

	)	DOCKET TR-072011
	)	
	)	ORDER 01
	)	
In the Matter of the Petition of	)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
	)	UPGRADE WARNING DEVICES AND
COLUMBIA BASIN RAILROAD,	)	AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURE FROM
	)	THE GRADE CROSSING PROTECTIVE
Petitioner.	)	FUND
	)	
	)	USDOT: 396428D
	)	UTC: 34A 1974.50
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1     On October 10, 2007, Columbia Basin Railroad 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 396428D and is located at U Southeast Road (U Road) in Grant County. The petitioner further requests the Commission authorize an expenditure of \$15,965.72 from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund (GCPF) to pay for the upgrade.
- 2     Railroad warning devices at the U Road crossing consist of cantilever mounted 8-inch flashing lights. Columbia Basin Railroad proposes to replace the existing lights with LED light assemblies, replace obsolete battery chargers and replace an obsolete motion sensor unit with MS Safetran model S200 units.
- 3     Replacing existing equipment with new equipment will provide reliable train detection at the crossing and eliminate false activations of the warning system. LED flashing lights will provide greater visibility for the motoring public.
- 4     The petitioner is requesting a disbursement of \$15,965.72 to pay for the upgrades. An expenditure of \$15,965.72 from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund is available to pay for funding the improvement.

### 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. *RCW 81.53*.
- 6 (2) The U Road grade crossing, identified as USDOT 396428D, is a public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington.
- 7 (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.
- 8 (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.
- 9 (5) Commission staff investigated the petition and recommended that it be granted, subject to specified conditions.
- 10 (6) After reviewing the petition filed by Columbia Basin Railroad 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:

- 11 The petition of Columbia Basin Railroad to upgrade warning devices at a railroad-highway grade crossing, located at U Road and the petitioner's tracks in Grant 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 \$15,965.72.

- (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) Columbia Basin Railroad 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, Columbia Basin Railroad 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 21, 2007.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Executive Secretary