

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

CITY OF WALLA WALLA,	)	DOCKET TR-100202
	)	
Petitioner.	)	ORDER 01
	)	
	)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
	)	RECONSTRUCT A PUBLIC
WATCO TRANSPORTATION	)	HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE CROSSING
SERVICES, INC. d/b/a PALOUSE	)	AT NORTH 13 <sup>th</sup> AVENUE/STATE
RIVER and COULEE CITY	)	ROUTE 125 IN THE CITY OF WALLA
RAILROAD,	)	WALLA
	)	
Respondent.	)	
	)	USDOT: #097108D
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On January 29, 2010, the City of Walla Walla (City or Petitioner) filed a petition with the Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) seeking approval to reconstruct a railroad-highway grade crossing at North 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue/State Route (SR) 125 in the City of Walla Walla. The reconstruction of this crossing is part of the City’s 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue-Rees to Carrie Water and Sewer Improvement Project.
  
- 2 On March 11, 2010, Respondent WATCO Transportation Services, Inc. d/b/a Palouse River and Coulee City Railroad (PCC) has consented to entry of an Order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.
  
- 3 North 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue/SR-125 is a two-lane minor arterial with one lane in each direction. The City estimates average daily vehicle traffic over the crossing at 4,048 with approximately two percent commercial motor vehicle traffic and four school bus trips. The posted legal speed limit is 30 miles per hour.
  
- 4 The crossing covers three industrial spur tracks. PCC currently operates less than one train per day over the crossing at 10 mph.
  
- 5 Railroad warning devices at the North 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue/SR-125 crossing consist of cross-bucks only.

6 The City proposes to expand the width of the crossing to accommodate a center turn lane south of the crossing, a sidewalk, planter strips on both sides of the road, and a multi-use path. The existing asphalt crossing surface will be replaced with concrete panels. In addition, the City proposes to add pavement marking on the approaches to the crossing and relocate and replace the cross-bucks.

7 The proposed upgrades are in the interest of improving safety and convenience for roadway and pedestrian users.

### FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

8 (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.*

9 (2) The proposed reconstruction of a crossing involves a public railroad-highway grade crossing, as defined in RCW 81.53.010.

10 (3) RCW 81.53.261 and WAC 480-62-150 require that the Commission grant approval prior to reconstructing a public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington.

11 (4) Commission staff investigated the petition and recommends that it be granted with the conditions identified below. All traffic control devices must comply with all applicable standards specified in the U.S. Department of Transportation 2009 *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.*

- On the street approaches to the North 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue/SR-125 crossing, the City must install:

1. Retroreflective cross-bucks, Section 8B.03(01).
2. Yield signs with the cross-bucks, Section 8B.04(01).
3. Appropriate multiple tracks signs, Section 8B.03(01).
4. Retroreflective tape on the sign posts and back side of each cross-buck blade, Section 8B.03(07).

- At a clearly visible location, the City must install an emergency notification signage (I-13, I-13a or reasonable alternative) to provide emergency notification information.
- The City must install concrete panels and flange way fillers in the concrete panels corresponding to the multiuse path and the sidewalk.

12 (5) After examination of the petition filed by the City of Walla Walla on January 29, 2010, 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 City of Walla Walla to reconstruct a railroad-highway grade crossing at North 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue/SR-125 and the Respondent's tracks in the City of Walla Walla 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 *2009 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.
- (3) On the street approaches to the North 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue/SR-125 crossing, the City must install:
  - Retroreflective cross-bucks, Section 8B.03(01).
  - Yield signs with the cross-bucks, Section 8B.04(01).
  - Appropriate multiple tracks signs, Section 8B.03(01).
  - Retroreflective tape on the sign posts and back side of each cross-buck blade, Section 8B.03(07).
- (4) At a clearly visible location, the City must install emergency notification signage (I-13, I-13a or reasonable alternative) to provide emergency notification information.

- (5) The City must install concrete panels and flange way fillers in the concrete panels corresponding to the multiuse path and the sidewalk.
- (6) Petitioner must notify Commission Staff within 30 days upon completion of this modification project.

The Commissioners have delegated authority to the Secretary to enter this Order pursuant to RCW 80.01.030 and WAC 480-07-904((1)(b)).

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective March 15, 2010.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER, Executive Director and Secretary

**NOTICE:** This is an order delegated to the Secretary for decision. In addition to serving you a copy of the decision, the Commission will post on its Internet Web site for at least fourteen (14) days a listing of all matters delegated to the Secretary for decision. You may seek Commission review of this decision. You must file a request for Commission review of this order no later than fourteen (14) days after the date the decision is posted on the Commission's Web site. The Commission will schedule your request for review for consideration at a regularly scheduled open meeting. The Commission will notify you of the time and place of the open meeting at which the Commission will review the order.

The Commission will grant a late-filed request for review only on a showing of good cause, including a satisfactory explanation of why the person did not timely file the request. A form for late-filed requests is available on the Commission's Web site.

This notice and review process is pursuant to the provisions of RCW 80.01.030 and WAC 480-07-904(2) and (3).