

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

)	DOCKET TR-121621
)	
CITY OF CENTRALIA,)	ORDER 01
)	
Petitioner,)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
)	MODIFY A PUBLIC HIGHWAY-RAIL
PUGET SOUND and PACIFIC)	GRADE CROSSING AT REYNOLDS
RAILROAD,)	AVENUE
)	
Respondent.)	
)	USDOT: #092554F
)	
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On October 4, 2012, the City of Centralia (City or Petitioner) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission), a petition seeking approval to modify a railroad-highway grade crossing. The crossing is identified as USDOT #092554F and is located at the intersection of Reynolds Avenue and Puget Sound and Pacific Railroad’s (PSAP) tracks in the city of Centralia. On November 8, 2012, the City filed a revised petition with the Commission.
- 2 Respondent PSAP, consented to entry of an Order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.
- 3 Current railroad warning devices at the crossing consist of cantilever mounted lights and gates on both approaches and an additional flashers only signal mast located on the north side of the crossing.
- 4 Reynolds Avenue is a two-lane roadway with a posted vehicle speed limit of 35 miles per hour. Average annual daily traffic through the crossing is estimated at 7,477 vehicles, including 12 percent commercial motor vehicles and 31 school buses.
- 5 PSAP operates four freight trains per day at up to 20 miles per hour over the single track crossing. Previously there were two tracks at this crossing, however recently the westernmost track was removed. No passenger trains operate over the crossing.

- 6 The Reynolds Avenue crossing is located beneath Interstate 5 (I-5) in Centralia. Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) phase one I-5 bridge replacement project directly impacts this crossing. The new I-5 bridge is being constructed to accommodate additional travel lanes which required removal of one of the tracks at the Reynolds Avenue crossing. The track was removed to accommodate a bridge pier.
- 7 The City proposes to reconfigure the crossing by relocating the signal mast on the eastbound approach relative to the remaining track. In addition, the cantilever portion of the signals will be removed and the remaining shoulder mounted signals with gates will be retrofitted with 12 inch LED lights which will improve visibility for crossing users. Currently, all flashers are incandescent lights. The cantilever signal masts are no longer needed because of the elimination of the second track. The City also proposes to remove an existing flasher-only signal mast located on the north side of the crossing which is unnecessary. The shoulder mounted lights with gates on both approaches are the appropriate active warning devices for a two lane roadway with a single track.
- 8 In addition, the City proposes to add an additional sidewalk to the crossing to provide safe passage for pedestrian users traveling in either direction along the roadway.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 9 (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*.
- 10 (2) The Reynolds Avenue grade crossing, identified as USDOT #092554F, is a public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington.
- 11 (3) RCW 81.53.261 and WAC 480-62-150 require that the Commission grant approval prior to modifying a public railroad-highway grade crossing or upgrading active crossing warning signals or devices within the state of Washington.
- 12 (4) Commission Staff investigated the petition and recommended that it be granted with conditions.

- 13 (5) After examination of the petition filed by the City of Centralia on October 4, 2012, and revised on November 8, 2012, and giving consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission grants the petition.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 14 The petition of the City of Centralia to modify a railroad-highway grade crossing at the intersection of Reynolds Avenue and the Respondents' tracks in the city of Centralia is granted. Approval of the petition is subject to the following conditions:
- (1) The modifications must conform to those described and attached to the revised 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) Upon completion of the authorized construction, Petitioner must notify the Commission within 30 days. Acceptance of the changes is subject to inspection by Commission Staff, verifying that the crossing is in full compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and the conditions set forth in this order

The Commissioners, having determined that this filing complies with the requirements of WAC 480-62-150(1)(f), WAC 480-62-150(2)(b) and RCW 81.53.030, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective November 14, 2012 .

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).