

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON STATE
DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION,

Petitioner,

BNSF RAILWAY CO., and

LONGVIEW SWITCHING
COMPANY,

Respondents.

DOCKET TR-171027

ORDER 01

ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
MODIFY HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE
CROSSING ACTIVE WARNING
DEVICES AT STATE ROUTE 432 IN
LONGVIEW

USDOT: 101842C

BACKGROUND

- 1 On October 6, 2017, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT or Petitioner) filed a petition with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) seeking approval to modify highway-rail grade crossing active warning devices at the State Route 432 (SR-432) crossing in Longview, identified as USDOT 101842C.
- 2 Respondents BNSF Railway Company (BNSF), and the railroad operator, Longview Switching Company, consented to entry of an Order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.
- 3 SR-432 is a four-lane urban arterial roadway with a posted speed limit of 55 miles per hour. Average annual daily traffic through the crossing is estimated at 37,000 vehicles. SR-432 is part of a designated school bus route with up to 10 school buses traveling over the crossing daily. It is also part of an established truck route with 17 percent commercial motor vehicle traffic.
- 4 Longview Switching Company operates a freight train six times per week over this single siding track crossing. The authorized speed limit for freight trains is 10 miles per hour. No passenger trains operate over the crossing. Railroad warning devices at the SR-432 crossing consist of cantilever-mounted flashing lights, gates, and active advance warning signs.

Exempt signs are posted on both approaches to the crossing to inform drivers of commercial motor vehicles transporting passengers or hazardous materials that a stop is not required except when rail traffic is approaching the crossing.

5 WSDOT proposes to upgrade all incandescent flashing lights at the SR-432 crossing to LEDs. These improvements are funded by the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Railroad Highways Crossings Section 130 program.

6 The proposed upgrades are in the interest of improving visibility of the railroad crossing signals and the overall safety for roadway users.

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 modification involves a public railroad-highway grade crossing, as defined in RCW 81.53.010.

9 (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 within the state of Washington.

10 (4) Commission staff investigated the petition and recommends that it be granted. 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.*

11 (5) After examination of the petition filed by WSDOT on October 6, 2017, 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 WSDOT to modify a railroad-highway grade crossing at SR-432 in Longview 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) Petitioner must notify Commission Staff within 30 days upon completion of this project.

The Secretary of the Commission has delegated authority over this matter pursuant to Order 01 in Docket A-151775. The Secretary finds this Order to be consistent with the public interest.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective October 19, 2017.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION



STEVEN V. KING, 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).