

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of

CITY OF EDMONDS,

Petitioner.

BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY,

Respondent.

DOCKET TR-180108

ORDER 01

ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
INSTALL WAYSIDE HORNS AT THE
DAYTON STREET HIGHWAY-RAIL
GRADE CROSSING

USDOT: 085439G

BACKGROUND

- 1 On February 5, 2018, the City of Edmonds (City or Petitioner) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a petition seeking approval to install wayside horns at the Dayton Street railroad grade crossing. The crossing is identified as USDOT 085439G.
- 2 The Petitioner seeks to eliminate the train horns that sound as trains approach and travel through this crossing. The Dayton Street crossing does not currently qualify as a “Quiet Zone” under Federal Railroad Administration rules, so the railroad must sound its horn unless a wayside horn is installed. Wayside horns are stationary horn systems mounted at the crossing and activated by the highway-railroad warning system. Wayside horns deliver a targeted blast of sound toward oncoming vehicle traffic and pedestrian users of the crossing. The result is a more focused horn sound at the crossing which helps alleviate the traditional train horn noise in areas located near the tracks.
- 3 Respondent BNSF Railway Company consented to entry of an Order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.
- 4 Dayton Street is a two-lane urban local road with a posted speed limit of 25 miles per hour. Average annual daily traffic through the crossing is estimated at 6,700 vehicles. Dayton Street is part of an established truck route with approximately two percent commercial vehicle traffic. The crossing is not part of an established school bus route.
- 5 Railroad warning devices at the Dayton Street crossing consist of shoulder-mounted LED flashing lights, gates, crossbucks, and advance warning signs. Approximately 40 freight

trains travel over the crossing daily at 35 miles per hour. In addition, 10 passenger trains travel over the crossing each day at 35 miles per hour.

- 6 The proposed wayside horns and indicator lights will be mounted on a new pole located in the southwest quadrant of the crossing. The wayside horns will be aimed across the tracks at the crossing and at oncoming traffic to minimize the impact of the train horn noise on downtown Edmonds and the surrounding area.

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. *RCW 81.53*.
- 8 (2) The grade crossing located at Dayton Street, identified as USDOT 085439G, is a public railroad crossing within the state of Washington.
- 9 (3) RCW 81.53.261 requires that the Commission grant approval prior to any changes to public railroad grade crossings within the state of Washington. *See also 480-62-150*.
- 10 (4) Commission Staff investigated the petition and recommended that it be granted, provided that upon completion of the construction, the Petitioner notifies the Commission. The crossing is subject to inspection by Commission Staff, verifying that it is in full compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- 11 (5) After reviewing the petition filed on February 5, 2018, and giving due consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission grants the petition.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 12 The City of Edmonds' petition to install wayside horns at a highway-railroad grade crossing, located at Dayton Street, is granted.

13 The Petitioner must notify the Commission upon completion of the installation. The crossing is subject to inspection by Commission Staff, to verify that it is in full compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

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 February 13, 2018.

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 website 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 website. 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 website.

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

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