

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of

CITY OF EDMONDS,

Petitioner.

WASHINGTON STATE
DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION, and,

BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY,

Respondents.

DOCKET TR-180109

ORDER 01

ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
INSTALL WAYSIDE HORNS AT THE
STATE ROUTE 104/MAIN STREET
HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE CROSSING

USDOT: 085445K

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 State Route 104 (SR-104)/Main Street railroad grade crossing. The crossing is identified as USDOT 085445K.
- 2 The Petitioner seeks to eliminate the train horns that sound as trains approach and travel through this crossing. The SR-104/Main 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 The Respondents, the Washington State Department of Transportation and BNSF Railway Company, consented to entry of an Order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.
- 4 SR-104/Main Street is a five-lane road with a posted speed limit of 25 miles per hour. Average annual daily traffic through the crossing is estimated at 5,500 vehicles. SR-104/Main 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 SR-104/Main Street crossing consist of cantilever-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 will be installed on the cantilevers in the southwest and northeast quadrants of the crossing. The indicator lights will be installed on the existing light pole in the northeast quadrant and on a new pole in the southwest quadrant. The wayside horns will be aimed at oncoming travel lanes 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 SR-104/Main Street, identified as USDOT 085445K, 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 SR-104/Main 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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