

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

CITY OF SNOQUALMIE,)	DOCKET NO. TR-030783
)	
Petitioner,)	ORDER NO. 01
)	
v.)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
)	UPGRADE RAILROAD WARNING
THE NORTHWEST RAILWAY)	DEVICES AT RIVER STREET
MUSEUM,)	
)	USDOT: 092026E
Respondent.)	WUTC: 29A 33.00
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On May 29, 2003, the City of Snoqualmie filed a petition with the Commission, seeking approval to upgrade warning devices at a railroad-highway grade crossing. The crossing is located at the intersection of River Street and tracks of the Northwest Railway Museum, in the NE ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 31, Township 24 N., Range 8 E., W.M., in Snoqualmie, Washington. Funding for the upgrades is pursuant to the Inter-modal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, in cooperation with the Washington State Department of Transportation.
- 2 Respondent has consented to an entry of an Order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.
- 3 In the vicinity of the crossing, River Street runs generally east-west, and is classified as a collector road. The roadway currently consists of one lane for each direction of traffic and has a vehicle speed limit of 35 mph. The River Street/SR-202 roadway intersection is located approximately 50 feet east of the railroad-highway grade crossing. Average daily traffic through the crossing is estimated at 1,993 vehicles, including 99 trucks and 6 school bus trips.

- 4 Respondent maintains one mainline track through the crossing. Average train traffic includes 12 trains per day on Saturdays and Sundays, as well as occasional weekday trips. The maximum operating speed through the crossing is 20 mph.
- 5 Warning devices at the crossing consist of standard crossbucks and advance warning signs. In addition, the River Street/SR-202 roadway intersection is controlled by a stop sign. The proposal is related to a City of Snoqualmie plan to establish an additional east-bound lane through the crossing that is to be designated as a left-turn lane for the River Street/SR-202 roadway intersection. Petitioner seeks to install active warning devices at the railroad-highway grade crossing, including a shoulder-mounted flashing light signal with gate in the crossing's northeast quadrant, and a cantilever-mounted flashing light signal with gate in the crossing's southwest quadrant. The cantilever structure is proposed due to the planned third lane through the crossing. The changes are proposed in the interest of improving safety and efficiency for roadway users.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6 (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.*
- 7 (2) The River Street grade crossing, identified as USDOT 092026E, is a public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington.
- 8 (3) RCW 81.53.261 requires that the Commission grant approval prior to making changes in the method and manner of traffic control and roadway configuration at public railroad-highway grade crossings within the state of Washington.
- 9 (4) Commission Staff investigated the petition and recommended that it be granted, subject to specified conditions.

- 10 (5) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on June 27, 2003.
- 11 (6) After examination of the petition filed by the City of Snoqualmie on May 29, 2003, 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 the City of Snoqualmie to upgrade railroad warning devices at a railroad-highway grade crossing, located at the intersection of River Street and the tracks of the Northwest Railway Museum, in Snoqualmie, Washington, is granted, subject to the following conditions:
- (1) The upgrades must conform to the plans filed in this proceeding.
 - (2) Traffic control devices, including passive signs, must comply with all applicable standards specified in the U.S. Department of Transportation *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.
 - (3) Traffic control devices and instrument housing must be installed in such a manner as to provide required clearances from both the roadway and railroad tracks.
 - (4) Upon completion of the upgrades authorized herein, petitioner must notify the Commission. 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 specified herein.

The Commissioners, having determined that this filing complies with the requirements of RCW 81.53.261, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DOCKET NO. TR-030783
ORDER NO. 01

PAGE 4

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 27th day of June, 2003.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary