BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

TACOMA RAIL,	)	DOCKET NO. TR-041112
	)	
Petitioner,	)	ORDER NO. 01
	)	
v.	)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
	)	UPGRADE WARNING DEVICES AT
CHEHALIS, WASHINGTON,	)	A RAILROAD-HIGHWAY GRADE
	)	CROSSING
Respondent.	)	
	)	USDOT: 396783S
	)	WUTC: 20J 18.60
. . . .	)	

BACKGROUND

1   On June 18, 2004, Tacoma Rail 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 the petitioner's tracks and Main Street, in the NW ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 38, Township 14 N., Range 2 W., W.M., in Chehalis, 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, Main Street is classified as an arterial roadway, with one lane for each direction of traffic and a vehicle speed limit of 25 mph. Average daily traffic through the crossing is estimated at 6,000 vehicles.

4   Petitioner maintains one main track through the crossing. Average train traffic across Main Street is estimated at one train per day. The maximum timetable speed through the crossing is 20 mph.

5   Warning devices at the crossing include cantilever-mounted flashing light
signals. Petitioner seeks to upgrade the signals at the crossing by installing
newer state-owned cantilever-mounted signals, retrofitted with new 12-inch LED
signal heads, and upgrading the train detection circuitry. The changes are
proposed in the interest of improving public safety at the crossing.

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 Main Street grade crossing, identified as USDOT 396783S, 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 any
changes in the method and manner of traffic control 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 July 16, 2004.

11   (6)   After examination of the petition filed by Tacoma Rail on June 18, 2004,
and giving consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause
shown, the Commission grants the petition.

O R D E R

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

12   The petition of Tacoma Rail to upgrade warning devices at a public railroad-
highway grade crossing, located at the intersection of Main Street and the
petitioner's tracks, in Chehalis, Washington, is granted, subject to the following
conditions:

(1)   The upgrades must conform to the specifications filed in this
proceeding.

(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)   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.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 16th day of July, 2004.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary