

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

CLARK COUNTY,)	DOCKET TR-041641
)	
Petitioner,)	ORDER 01
)	
v.)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
)	RECONSTRUCT A HIGHWAY-RAIL
COLUMBIA BASIN RAILROAD -)	GRADE CROSSING AND UPGRADE
PORTLAND VANCOUVER)	RAILROAD WARNING DEVICES AT
JUNCTION RAILROAD,)	72 ND AVENUE
)	
Respondent.)	USDOT: 852433H
)	UTC: 49A5.70
)	
)	

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BACKGROUND

- 1 On September 10, 2004, Clark County (county) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission), a petition seeking approval to reconstruct a highway-rail grade crossing and upgrade warning devices at a railroad-highway grade crossing. The crossing is identified as USDOT 852433H and is located at the intersection of Northeast 72nd Avenue and the Respondent's tracks in Clark County.
- 2 Columbia Basin Railroad/Portland Vancouver Junction Railroad consented to entry of an Order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.
- 3 The county estimates average daily vehicle traffic over the crossing at 13,000, which includes commercial motor vehicles. The posted vehicle speed is 40 miles per hour. 72nd Avenue is classified as a principal arterial road. Average daily train traffic includes six trains per week, traveling at a maximum speed of 10 miles per hour.
- 4 Current warning devices at the crossing include shoulder mounted flashing lights and gates.
- 5 The proposal to reconstruct the crossing is related to a plan by the county to upgrade 72nd Avenue to meet current principal arterial road standards. 72nd Avenue is a primary connector to Interstate 205. The project includes widening the roadway to 70 feet curb to

curb, provides four travel lanes, bike lanes, and a center turn lane and adds sidewalks in both directions. The asphalt crossing surface will be replaced with concrete panels and the railroad warning devices will be upgraded to cantilever mounted signals with gates.

6 The proposed upgrades to the crossing are in the interest of improving safety for roadway and pedestrian 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 RCW 81.53.*

8 (2) The 72nd Avenue crossing, identified as USDOT 852433H is a public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington.

9 (3) RCW 81.53.261 requires that the Commission grant approval prior to making changes in the method and manner of traffic control at public railroad-highway grade crossings within the state of Washington.

10 (4) Commission Staff investigated the petition and recommended that it be granted subject to the following conditions:

- The county must angle one set of the cantilever mounted flashers toward merging traffic from Northeast 99th Street. Angling of the flashers will warn travelers on Northeast 99th Street of an approaching train.
- The county must provide commission staff with a copy of the final railroad signal design plans prior to construction.

11 (5) After examination of the petition filed by Clark County on September 10, 2004, 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 Clark County to reconstruct a highway-railroad grade crossing and modify warning devices at a railroad-highway grade crossing, located at 72nd Avenue and the Respondent's tracks in Clark County, is granted, as follows:

- (1) The modifications must conform to those described in the amended petition.
- (2) The county must angle one set of the cantilever mounted flashers toward merging traffic from Northeast 99th Street. Angling of the flashers will warn travelers on Northeast 99th Street of an approaching train.
- (3) The county must provide commission staff with a copy of the final railroad signal design plans prior to construction.
- (4) Traffic control devices must comply with all applicable standards specified in the U.S. Department of Transportation *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.
- (5) 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.
- (6) Upon completion of the modifications 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 January 25, 2008.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Executive Secretary