

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

SNOHOMISH COUNTY PUBLIC
WORKS,

Petitioner,

EASTSIDE COMMUNITY RAIL AND
BALLARD TERMINAL RAILROAD,

Respondents.

DOCKET TR-160862

ORDER 01

ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO
RECONSTRUCT AND UPGRADE THE
INTERCONNECTION AT A PUBLIC
HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE CROSSING
AT 240TH STREET SE

USDOT: 091811X

BACKGROUND

- 1 On July 1, 2016, Snohomish County Public Works (Snohomish County or Petitioner) filed a petition with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) seeking approval to reconstruct a railroad-highway grade crossing at 240th Street SE in Snohomish county.
- 2 Respondents Eastside Community Rail and Ballard Terminal Railroad consented to entry of an Order by the Commission without further notice or hearing.
- 3 240th Street SE is a two-lane road with a posted speed limit of 25 miles per hour. The annual average daily vehicle traffic over the crossing is 3,069 vehicles. 240th Street SE is not part of an established truck route or designated school bus route.
- 4 Eastside Community Rail currently maintains one mainline track at this location. Ballard Terminal Railroad currently operates one freight train per day traveling up to 10 miles per hour over the crossing. No passenger trains operate over the crossing.
- 5 Railroad warning devices at the 240th Street SE crossing consist of shoulder-mounted lights, a blank-out sign, a pedestrian warning bell, and advance warning signs.
- 6 Snohomish County plans to reconstruct the roadway profile at the 240th Street SE crossing to alleviate damage to the railroad tracks from low-clearance vehicles. Snohomish County proposes to replace the existing rubber crossing surface with reinforced concrete panels. A new sidewalk will be installed on the north side of the street to connect the existing sidewalk on the west side of the tracks to the sidewalk on the east side of the tracks. A new sidewalk will also be installed on the south side of 240th Street SE west of the tracks. Asphalt

shoulders will be installed on the north and south sides of the street. The existing flashing signals will be upgraded to LED lights and relocated behind the new sidewalk. Additionally, a third pair of LED flashing lights will be added to the signal on the south side of 240th Street SE, to provide additional notice to drivers traveling north on Snohomish-Woodinville Road. The existing interconnection with the traffic signal at 240th Street SE and Snohomish-Woodinville Road will be upgraded to 34.2 seconds of advance preemption time. Conduit will be installed under 240th Street SE to accommodate the possibility of future gate installation.

- 7 The proposed modifications are in the interest of improving safety and convenience for roadway and pedestrians users while facilitating train movements.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8 (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.*
- 9 (2) The proposed reconstruction of a crossing involving a public railroad-highway grade crossing, as defined in RCW 81.53.010.
- 10 (3) RCW 81.53.261 and WAC 480-62-150 require that the Commission grant approval prior to reconstructing a public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington.
- 11 (4) Commission staff investigated the petition and recommends that it be granted. All traffic control devices must comply with all applicable standards specified in the U.S. Department of Transportation *2009 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.*
- 12 (5) After examination of the petition filed by Snohomish County on July 1, 2016, and giving consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission grants the petition.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

13 The petition of Snohomish County Public Works to reconstruct and upgrade the interconnection at a railroad-highway grade crossing at 240th Street SE and the Respondents' tracks in Snohomish county is granted, as follows:

- (1) The modifications must conform to those described in the petition.
- (2) Traffic control devices must comply with all applicable standards specified in the U.S. Department of Transportation *2009 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.
- (3) Petitioner must notify Commission Staff within 30 days upon completion of this modification project.

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 August 17, 2016.

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 Internet Web site 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 Web site. 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 Web site.

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