

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of

CASCADE AND COLUMBIA RIVER
RAILROAD

Petitioner,

Seeking Approval to Upgrade Signals
at a Highway-Rail Grade Crossing and
Requesting Disbursement from the
Grade Crossing Protective Fund

DOCKET TR-190781

ORDER 01

GRANTING PETITION TO MODIFY
ACTIVE WARNING DEVICES AT A
PUBLIC HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE
CROSSING AT ROCKY REACH DAM
ROAD AND AUTHORIZING
EXPENDITURE FROM THE GRADE
CROSSING PROTECTIVE FUND

USDOT: 065855E

BACKGROUND

- 1 On September 18, 2019, the Cascade and Columbia River Railroad (CSCD or Petitioner) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a petition seeking approval to modify active warning devices at a highway-rail grade crossing (Petition). The Petitioner filed a revised Petition on November 7, 2019. The crossing is identified as USDOT 065855E and is located at the intersection of Rocky Reach Dam Road and the Petitioner's tracks in Chelan county near the city of East Wenatchee. The Petitioner further requests the Commission authorize an expenditure of \$1,611.61 from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund (GCPF) to pay for the modifications.
- 2 Rocky Reach Dam Road is a two-lane roadway with a speed limit of 25 miles per hour. Estimated average annual daily vehicle traffic through the crossing is 300 vehicles. Rocky Reach Dam Road is not part of either an established truck or school bus route. Up to one freight train operates over this crossing daily at up to 25 miles per hour. No passenger trains operate over the crossing.
- 3 Railroad warning devices at the Rocky Reach Dam Road crossing consist of mast and cantilever-mounted incandescent flashing lights, bell, crossbucks, advance warning signs on both approaches, and three-track stick train detection. The Petitioner proposes to replace and upgrade the existing incandescent flashing lights with new LED warning lights. The Petitioner also proposes to replace the fading, non-compliant crossbucks with new crossbucks that meet current standards for reflectivity. These upgrades will improve visibility and safety at the crossing.

4 The total amount requested for the safety equipment is \$1,611.61. GCPF funds are available for this project. The Petitioner will provide the labor needed for installation.

5 Commission staff (Staff) has investigated the the revised Petition and recommends that it be granted subject to the following conditions: (1) the modifications must conform to those described in and attached to the revised Petition, (2) traffic control devices must comply with all applicable standards specified in the U.S. Department of Transportation Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, and (3) upon completion of the modifications authorized herein, the Petitioner must notify the Commission within 60 days. Acceptance of the changes is subject to inspection by Staff, who will verify that the crossing is in full compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and the conditions specified herein.

DISCUSSION

6 RCW 81.53.261 requires that the Commission grant approval prior to modifying a public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington. RCW 81.53.271 authorizes the Commission to disburse funds from the GCPF to pay for improvements to highway-rail grade crossings. We find that the proposed modifications will improve overall safety for roadway users. Accordingly, the Commission grants the Petition subject to the conditions that Staff recommends.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

7 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington having jurisdiction over public highway-rail grade crossings within the state of Washington, and authority to approve and administer disbursements from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund.

8 (2) The grade crossing at Rocky Reach Dam Road, identified as USDOT 065855E, is a public highway-rail grade crossing within the state of Washington.

9 (3) RCW 81.53.261 requires the Commission grant approval prior to any changes to public highway-rail grade crossings within the state of Washington. *See also* WAC 480-62-150.

10 (4) RCW 81.53.271 allows the Commission to disburse funds from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund to pay for the installation of a grade crossing protective device, without requiring the Petitioner to share the cost.

- 11 (5) Commission Staff investigated the Petition and recommends that it be granted subject to the conditions set out in paragraph 5, above.
- 12 (6) After reviewing the Petition filed by CSCD on September 18, 2019, and the revised Petition filed on November 7, 2019, and giving due consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission grants the Petition as revised on November 7, 2019, and request for disbursement of funds.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 13 The Cascade and Columbia River Railroad's Petition to upgrade warning devices at a highway-rail grade crossing, located at Rocky Reach Dam Road, is granted. The cost of the equipment for this upgrade shall be paid from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund. Approval of the Petition is subject to the following conditions:
- (1) Expenditure from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must not exceed \$1,611.61.
 - (2) Payment will be made upon presentation of claim for reimbursement for materials and verification by Commission Staff that the work has been satisfactorily completed.
 - (3) The Petitioner must sign and return the attached project agreement.
 - (4) The project must be completed no later than May 31, 2021.
 - (5) Traffic control devices must comply with all applicable standards specified in the U.S. Department of Transportation *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.
 - (6) The Petitioner must notify the Commission upon completion of the upgrades authorized by this Order. Acceptance of the upgrades is subject to inspection by Commission Staff, and verification that the crossing is in full compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and the conditions specified in this Order.

14 The Secretary of the Commission has delegated authority over this matter pursuant to Order 01 in Docket A-180762. The Secretary finds this Order to be consistent with the public interest.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective December 20, 2019.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARK L. JOHNSON
Executive Director and Secretary

NOTICE TO PARTIES: This is an order delegated to the Executive Secretary for decision. As authorized in WAC 480-07-904(3), you must file any request for Commission review of this order no later than 14 days after the date the decision is posted on the Commission's website.