

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of

WALLA WALLA COUNTY PUBLIC
WORKS,

Petitioner,

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD
COMPANY,

Respondent.

DOCKET TR-200538

ORDER 01

GRANTING PETITION TO MODIFY
WARNING DEVICES AT A PUBLIC
HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE
CROSSING AT DODD ROAD IN
WALLA WALLA COUNTY

USDOT: 844396M

BACKGROUND

- 1 On June 11, 2020, Walla Walla County Public Works (County or Petitioner) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a petition (Petition) seeking approval to modify warning devices at a railroad-highway grade crossing located at Dodd Road in Walla Walla County, identified as USDOT 844396M.
- 2 Respondent Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) consented to entry of a Commission order without further notice or hearing.
- 3 Dodd Road is a two-lane roadway with a posted vehicle speed limit of 40 miles per hour. Average annual daily traffic through the crossing is estimated at 2,267 vehicles. Dodd Road is part of an established school bus route with three school buses traveling over the crossing every school day. Dodd Road is also part of an established truck route with approximately 12 percent commercial vehicle traffic.
- 4 Warning devices at the Dodd Road crossing consist of advance warning signs, crossbucks, and cantilever-mounted lights. UPRR operates nine freight trains per day over this single mainline track crossing at up to 45 miles per hour. No passenger trains travel over the crossing.
- 5 As part of this project:
 - UPRR will install mast-mounted LED flashing lights and gates.
 - The County will install guardrails to protect railroad active warning devices. The County will also refresh signage and pavement markings.

6 These improvements are funded by the United States Department of Transportation,
Federal Highway Administration, Railway-Highway Crossings (Section 130) program
and will improve the overall safety of the crossing.

7 Commission staff (Staff) has investigated the 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 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) the County must notify the Commission within
60 days upon completion of the modifications authorized herein. 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

8 RCW 81.53.261 requires that the Commission grant approval prior to modifying a public
railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington. 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

- 9 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington having jurisdiction over
public railroad-highway grade crossings within the state of Washington.
- 10 (2) The Dodd Road grade crossing, identified as USDOT 844396M, is a public
railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington.
- 11 (3) RCW 81.53.261 requires that the Commission grant approval prior to modifying a
public railroad-highway grade crossing within the state of Washington. See also
480-62-150.
- 12 (4) Staff investigated the Petition and recommends that it be granted subject to the
conditions set out in paragraph 7, above.
- 13 (5) After examining the Petition filed by the County on June 11, 2020, 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:

- 14 Walla Walla County Public Works' Petition to modify warning devices at a railroad-highway grade crossing located at Dodd Road is granted, subject to the following conditions:
- (1) The modifications must conform to those described in and attached to the 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.
 - (3) Walla Walla County Public Works must notify the Commission within 60 days upon completion of the modifications authorized herein. 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.
- 15 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 June 22, 2020.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

/s/ Mark L. Johnson
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.