Decision No. C25-0601

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 25A-0273R

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY OF COLORADO, L.L.C. FOR AUTHORITY TO INSTALL PASSIVE WARNING CROSS BUCKS AND YIELD SIGNS AND SURFACING FOR A NEW AT-GRADE HIGHWAY-RAIL CROSSING AT PROPOSED COUNTY ROAD 9.5 TO BE UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE TOWN OF MEAD, IN WELD COUNTY, STATE OF COLORADO.

> COMMISSION DECISION DEEMING APPLICATION COMPLETE AND GRANTING APPLICATION

> > Issued Date:

August 18, 2025

Adopted Date: August 13, 2025

I. **BY THE COMMISSION** 

> Α. Statement

1. This matter comes before the Commission for consideration of an Application

("Application") filed by the Great Western Railway Company of Colorado, LLC ("GWR") on

June 25, 2025, for an order authorizing the installation of new passive warning cross bucks and

yield signs on each approach, and new crossing material at the proposed County Road ("CR")

9.5 at-grade highway-rail crossing of existing tracks owned by Great Western Railway, between

railroad mileposts 9.69 and 10.68 of the Central Division, Longmont Subdivision, in the Town of

Mead ("Mead"), Weld County, State of Colorado.

2. Notice of the Application was provided by the Commission to all interested parties,

including adjacent property owners pursuant to § 40-6-108(2), C.R.S., on July 2, 2025.

3. No interventions were filed in this matter. Decision No. C25-0601 PROCEEDING NO. 25A-0273R

4. The Commission reviewed the record in this matter and deems the Application complete within the meaning of § 40-6-109.5, C.R.S.

5. Now being fully advised in the matter, we grant the Application.

## **B.** Findings of Fact

- 6. The Commission gave notice to all interested parties, including the adjacent property owners. No intervention was received contesting or opposing the Application.
- 7. GWR requests authority for the installation of new passive warning cross buck signs and yield signs on each approach, and new crossing material at the proposed CR 9.5 at-grade highway-rail crossing of existing tracks owned by GWR, in Mead, Weld County, Colorado.
- 8. GWR has three existing tracks at the proposed crossing: one main track, one siding track and one industry spur. GWR is collaborating with Mead Industrial Development, LLC and Mead for the construction of CR 9.5 from CR 36, north of the railroad tracks, to CR 34, south of the railroad tracks, to provide access to proposed adjacent development, and to provide an additional north-south access road east of I-25. Currently I-25 is being widened, and the existing I-25 frontage road to the east of I-25 may be modified in the future to provide local access only.
- 9. The project includes installation of concrete panel crossing surface material at the existing three tracks of GWR, and construction of CR 9.5 as an asphalt paved roadway north and south of the crossing by the developer. Passive warning signs including W10-1 grade crossing advance warning signs, R15-1 crossbuck signs and R1-2 yield signs will be installed along with grade crossing symbol pavement marking on each approach to the crossing. A 10 feet wide detached sidewalk will be constructed adjacent to the proposed roadway.
- 10. GWR states that projected opening day traffic volume at the subject crossing will be 1,300 vehicles per day ("VPD"). 10 percent of this traffic volume is estimated to be heavy

vehicles. School buses may use the crossing. The posted speed limit at the crossing will be 40 miles per hour ("MPH"). The five-year traffic volume projections at the crossing are 4,300 VPD and twenty-year traffic volume projections are 22,100 VPD. There is currently one train per day as of 2024 that will use the crossing at a maximum timetable speed of 10 MPH with no anticipated changes in train volume in the future.

- 11. GWR estimates the cost of the project at \$ 442,532. The costs for the project will be funded through Mead Industrial Development, LLC.
- 12. GWR proposes to start the project on August 25, 2025, and anticipates being completed with the work by November 1, 2025. GWR will be required to provide a copy of the signed Construction and Maintenance Agreement with Mead for this crossing by August 25, 2025, prior to starting construction on this project.
- 13. GWR will be required to inform the Commission in writing that all work is complete within ten days of completion. The Commission will expect this letter no later than November 1, 2025. However, the Commission understands this letter may be provided earlier or later than this date depending on changes or delays to the construction schedule.
- 14. GWR will be required to request a new U.S. DOT Crossing Inventory Number and complete the new U.S. DOT Crossing Inventory Form for the crossing. This form will need to be filed in this proceeding by GWR by November 1, 2025.

## C. Conclusions

15. The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter under §§ 40-4-106(2)(a) and (3)(a), C.R.S.

- 16. Because the Application is unopposed, the Commission will determine this matter upon the record, without a formal hearing under § 40-6-109(5), C.R.S., and Rule 1403, Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure, 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* 723-1.
- 17. Based on the Findings of Fact, the Application is granted consistent with the discussion above.

## II. ORDER

## **A.** The Commission Orders That:

- 1. The Application ("Application") filed by the Great Western Railway Company of Colorado, LLC ("GWR") on June 25, 2025, for an order authorizing the installation of new passive warning cross bucks and yield signs on each approach, and new crossing material at the proposed County Road ("CR") 9.5 at-grade highway-rail crossing of existing tracks owned by Great Western Railway, between railroad mileposts 9.69 and 10.68 of the Central Division, Longmont Subdivision, in the Town of Mead ("Mead"), Weld County, State of Colorado is deemed complete within the meaning of § 40-6-109.5, C.R.S., and is granted.
- 2. GWR is authorized and ordered to proceed with the installation of new passive warning cross bucks and yield signs on each approach, and new crossing material at the proposed crossing.
- 3. GWR shall file a copy of the signed Construction and Maintenance Agreement with Mead for this crossing by August 25, 2025, prior to starting work at the crossing.
- 4. GWR is required to inform the Commission in writing that the work is complete within ten days after completion. We shall expect this letter by November 1, 2025. However, we understand this letter may be provided earlier or later than this date depending on changes or delays to the construction schedule.

- 5. GWR will be required to request a new U.S. DOT Crossing Inventory Number and complete the new U.S. DOT Crossing Inventory Form for the crossing. This form will need to be filed in this proceeding by GWR by November 1, 2025.
- 6. The 20-day period provided for in § 40-6-114, C.R.S., within which to file an Application for Rehearing, Reargument, or Reconsideration, begins on the first day following the effective date of this Decision.
  - 7. The Commission retains jurisdiction to enter further decisions as necessary.
  - 8. This Decision is effective upon its Issued Date.

Director

B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING August 13, 2025.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

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MEGAN M. GILMAN

ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

TOM PLANT

Commissioners

Rebecca E. White,