

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO**

DOCKET NO. 03A-036R

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IN THE MATTER OF THE LARIMER COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION, FOR  
AUTHORITY TO INSTALL NEW FLASHING LIGHT SIGNALS, BELLS, AND  
AUTOMATIC GATE ARMS, AT THE CROSSING OF THE BURLINGTON NORTHERN  
AND SANTA FE RAILWAY COMPANY TRACKS AT LARIMER COUNTY ROAD 15A,  
LARIMER COUNTY, COLORADO.

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**COMMISSION ORDER GRANTING APPLICATION**

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Mailed Date: June 13, 2003  
Adopted Date: June 11, 2003

**I. BY THE COMMISSION**

**A. Statement**

1. On January 24, 2003, The Larimer County Public Works Division, Department of Engineering, (Larimer County), filed this application requesting authority to install grade crossing warning devices consisting of flashing light signals with gates, bells, and constant warning devices at the crossing of County Road 15A, across the tracks and right-of-way of The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF), at railroad mile post 52.55, National Inventory I.D. No. 245-020P, in Larimer County, Colorado.

2. On January 29, 2003, the Staff of the Commission filed its Entry of Appearance and Notice of Intervention.

3. The Commission gave notice of this application together with a copy of the application to all interested parties, including the adjacent property owners, in accordance with § 40-6-108(2), C.R.S. (1993). This Notice was mailed January 29, 2003.

4. On February 4, 2003, BNSF filed its Entry of Appearance and Notice of Intervention.

5. On February 5, 2003, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) filed its Entry of Appearance and Notice of Intervention.

6. On May 27, 2003, the Commission received a copy of the fully executed Agreement by and between CDOT, Larimer County, and BNSF, dated May 2, 2003, pertaining to the construction, maintenance, and funding for this project.

7. The Commission has reviewed the record in this matter and deems that the application is now complete within the meaning of § 40-6-109.5, C.R.S.

8. The Commission will determine this matter upon the record, without a formal hearing under § 40-6-109(5), C.R.S., and Rule 24, Commission Rule of Practice and Procedure, 4 *Colorado Code of Regulations* ("CCR") 723-1, because the application is noncontested and the Applicant did not request a public hearing.

**B. Findings of Fact**

9. The purpose of this application is to secure Commission approval to install grade crossing warning devices consisting of flashing light signals with gates, bells, and constant warning devices at the crossing of County Road 15A across the tracks and right-of-way of BNSF at railroad mile post 52.55, National Inventory I.D. No. 245-020P in Larimer County, Colorado.

10. The average daily vehicle traffic at this crossing is 110 vehicles and anticipated to be 130 vehicles in 2006. There are approximately eight train movements a day with a maximum timetable speed of 49 mph.

11. The proposed warning devices will consist of train-activated flashing light signals with gates and bells. Track circuits will be constant warning devices that will provide 30 seconds of warning time for the approach of a train in either direction at any authorized train speed.

12. The work to be done and the expenses therefor will be paid in accordance with the appropriate rules and regulations of the Federal Government and are covered by an agreement by and between CDOT, Larimer County, and BNSF dated May 2, 2003. The total cost of the grade crossing signal project is \$153,936.

13. Maintenance of the roadway approaches to the crossing will be the responsibility of Larimer County. Maintenance of the crossing surface, roadbed, tracks, grade crossing warning devices, and appurtenances will be the responsibility of BNSF.

14. All exhibits, specifications, and plans are complete, accurate, and meet Commission requirements.

15. The public safety, convenience, and necessity require, and will be served by, the granting of this application.

**C. Conclusions On Findings Of Fact**

16. The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter under § 40-4-106(2)(a) and (3)(a), C.R.S. (1993).

17. No intervention was received in opposition to this application. The application is noncontested and unopposed.

18. The Commission will determine this matter on the record, without a formal hearing, under §40-6-109(5), C.R.S (1993) and Rule 24, Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure, 4 CCR 723-1.

19. The public safety, convenience, and necessity require, and will be served by, the granting of this application.

## **II. ORDER**

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

1. Larimer County, Colorado is authorized and directed to install grade crossing warning devices consisting of flashing light signals with gates, bells, and constant warning devices at the crossing of County Road 15A across the tracks and right-of-way of The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company at railroad mile post 52.55, National Inventory I.D. No. 245-020P in Larimer County, Colorado.

2. Installation of the warning devices authorized in Ordering Paragraph 1 above shall be in accordance with the plans, specifications, and exhibits submitted in this application and hereby approved.

3. The installation, operation, and maintenance of the crossing warning devices shall comply with the Agreement dated May 2, 2003, by and between the Colorado Department of Transportation, Larimer County, Colorado and The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company.

4. The total actual cost of labor and material required for installation of the grade crossing warning devices shall be paid in accordance with the Agreement dated May 2, 2003, by

and between the Colorado Department of Transportation, Larimer County, Colorado and The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company.

5. Upon completion of the installation of the grade crossing warning devices ordered herein, The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company shall notify the Commission in writing within ten days of the initial operation of the warning devices.

6. If the installation authorized in Ordering Paragraph 1 above has not been completed within nine months of the effective date of this order, The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company shall file with the Commission:

- a) A status report of the project; and
- b) A progress report each month after the status report is filed, until the installation is completed.

7. The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company shall maintain the warning devices at its own expense for the life of the crossing so protected.

8. The Commission retains jurisdiction to enter further required orders.

9. This Order is effective upon its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING  
June 11, 2003.**

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Bruce N. Smith  
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

GREGORY E. SOPKIN

POLLY PAGE

JIM DYER

Commissioners