Decision No. C25-0898

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 25A-0441R

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF THE TOWN OF WINDSOR FOR AUTHORITY TO RECONSTRUCT THE EXISTING MEDIANS ON EACH APPROACH, AND EXTEND THE NORTH MEDIAN LENGTH, AT TRACKS OWNED BY GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY OF COLORADO, LLC CROSSING STATE HIGHWAY 257, USDOT NO. 871920F, IN WELD COUNTY, STATE OF COLORADO.

> COMMISSION DECISION DEEMING APPLICATION COMPLETE AND GRANTING APPLICATION

> > Issued Date:

December 11, 2025

Adopted Date: December 10, 2025

I. **BY THE COMMISSION** 

> A. Statement

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

("Application") filed by the Town of Windsor ("Windsor") on October 20, 2025, for an order

authorizing the reconstruction of the existing raised medians on each approach, and extension of

the north median to 100 feet from the railroad gate, as identified by the Federal Railroad

Administration ("FRA") to be necessary to maintain Quiet Zone status at the State Highway 257

("SH 257") crossing of Great Western Railway of Colorado LLC ("GWR") tracks at railroad

milepost 30.54 of the Longmont subdivision, National Inventory No. 871920F, in the Town of

Windsor, 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 October 28, 2025.

- 3. On November 7, 2025, Windsor filed an amendment to the Application that included Corrected Improvement plans for the medians at the crossing and a corrected estimate of project construction costs.
  - 4. No interventions were filed in this matter.
- 5. The Commission reviewed the record in this matter and deems the Application complete within the meaning of § 40-6-109.5, C.R.S.
  - 6. Now being fully advised in the matter, we grant the Application.

## **B.** Findings of Fact

- 7. The Commission gave notice to all interested parties, including the adjacent property owners. No intervention was received contesting or opposing the Application.
- 8. Windsor requests authority for the reconstruction of the existing raised medians on each approach to the crossing, and extension of the north median to 100 feet from the railroad gate at SH 257. SH 257 crosses one spur track (near the point of split into spur and yard track) of the GWR at this location. An FRA inspection of this crossing in May 2024 identified the existing medians as not meeting the required 6 inch minimum height required for Quiet Zones. A subsequent review by FRA also identified the north median needs to be extended from the existing 60 foot length measured from the railroad gate to 100 feet measured from the railroad gate, due to the adjacent property access being shifted north. The existing raised median on the south approach is proposed to be reconstructed in the existing footprint, with the required 6 inch curb height. The existing raised median on the north approach is proposed to be reconstructed with the required 6 inch curb height and lengthened to the required 100 feet from the railroad gate. No

modifications are proposed to the existing railroad active warning equipment at the roadway crossing.

- 9. Windsor states that most recent traffic volume at the subject crossing as of 2025 is 11,200 vehicles per day ("VPD"). 35 percent of this traffic volume is estimated to be heavy vehicles. School bus use the crossing. The posted speed limit at the crossing is 45 miles per hour ("MPH"). The five-year traffic volume projections at the crossing are 12,000 VPD and 20-year traffic volume projections are 18,600 VPD. There are currently four switching trains per day as of 2019 that use the crossing at a maximum timetable speed of 10 MPH with no anticipated changes in train volume in the future.
  - 10. There have been two property-only accidents at the crossing since 1975 in 2004.
- 11. Windsor estimates the cost of the project at \$111,534. Windsor will cover 100 percent of the costs of the project.
- 12. Windsor proposes to start the project on approval of the Application and anticipates being complete with the work by June 30, 2026. Windsor will be required to provide a copy of the signed Construction and Maintenance Agreement with GWR for this project prior to starting construction on this project.
- 13. Windsor 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 June 30, 2026. 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. Windsor will be required to update the US DOT Crossing Inventory Form for the crossing. This form will need to be filed in this proceeding by Windsor by June 30, 2026.

## 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 Town of Windsor ("Windsor") on October 20, 2025, for an order authorizing the reconstruction of the existing raised medians on each approach, and extension of the north median to 100 feet from the railroad gate, as identified by the Federal Railroad Administration ("FRA") to be necessary to maintain Quiet Zone status at the State Highway 257 ("SH 257") crossing of Great Western Railway of Colorado LLC ("GWR") tracks at railroad milepost 30.54 of the Longmont subdivision, National Inventory No. 871920F, in the Town of Windsor, Weld County, State of Colorado is deemed complete within the meaning of § 40-6-109.5, C.R.S., and is granted.
- 2. Windsor is authorized and ordered to proceed with the reconstruction of the existing raised medians on each approach, and extension of the north median to 100 feet from the railroad gate.

- 3. Windsor shall file a copy of the signed Construction and Maintenance Agreement with GWR for this project prior to starting work at the crossing.
- 4. Windsor is required to inform the Commission in writing that the work is complete within ten days after completion. We shall expect this letter by June 30, 2026. However, we understand this letter may be provided earlier or later than this date depending on changes or delays to the construction schedule.
- 5. Windsor will be required to update the US DOT Crossing Inventory Form for the crossing. This form will need to be filed in this proceeding by Windsor by June 30, 2026.
- 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.
- B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING December 10, 2025.



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

ERIC BLANK

MEGAN M. GILMAN

TOM PLANT

Commissioners

Rebecca E. White, Director