

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Application of)	DOCKET TR-143139
)	
COLUMBIA BASIN RAILROAD,)	ORDER 01
)	
Applicant,)	
)	ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR
Requesting Disbursement from the)	DISBURSEMENT FROM THE GRADE
Grade Crossing Protective Fund)	CROSSING PROTECTIVE FUND
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On July 1, 2013, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) sent to various interested parties a “Notice of Opportunity to Apply for Grant Monies from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund” in Docket TR-131246.

- 2 On August 18, 2014, the Columbia Basin Railroad (CBRR) filed with the Commission an application requesting a disbursement of \$9,862.78 from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund (GCPF) to pay for a project related to passive crossing upgrades.

- 3 CBRR seeks to replace crossbuck posts and crossbucks, replace or install yield or stop signs and install retro-reflective tape at 49 public crossings on their railroad lines in Grant, Franklin and Adams counties. CBRR also seeks to install “Tracks Out of Service” signs at 16 crossings (14 public and two private). Specific information about each crossing is contained in CBRR’s GCPF application and in the attached Appendix A.

- 4 In 2009, the Federal Highway Administration revised its Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) to require either a yield or stop sign on all passively-protected grade crossings by 2019. Yield or stop signs make clear to motorists what is expected of them when approaching a passive crossing. “Tracks Out of Service” signs alert the public that the tracks are not active.

- 5 The MUTCD also requires retro-reflective cross buck signs and a strip of retro-reflective tape on cross buck sign posts. The retro-reflective signs and tape improve nighttime visibility, advising motorists of an approaching grade crossing.

6 CBRR seeks \$9,862.78 to pay for the cost of the passive crossing upgrades. CBRR will contribute the labor to install the signs. There currently are funds available to pay for the project.

7 CBRR must also meet the following conditions for administering the GCPF grant.

- Expenditure from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must not exceed \$9,862.78.
- The work for which the Grade Crossing Protective Fund disbursement was approved must conform to the project description specified in the application.
- CBRR must sign and return the attached project agreement.
- Payment will be made upon presentation of claim for reimbursement and verification by Commission Staff that the work has been satisfactorily completed.
- The project must be completed and the associated request for reimbursement from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must be filed with the Commission no later than May 30, 2015.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

8 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington having authority to approve and administer disbursements from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund. RCW 81.53.271; RCW 81.53.281.

9 (2) The project for which CBRR seeks disbursement from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund is eligible for funding consideration under Commission rules and complies with the requirements of RCW 81.53.271, RCW 81.53.281, and WAC 480-62.

10 (3) Commission Staff investigated the request based on the review criteria specified in the Commission's rules and recommended that it be granted, subject to specified conditions for administering the grant.

- Expenditure from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must not exceed \$9,862.78.

- The work for which the Grade Crossing Protective Fund disbursement was approved must conform to the project description specified in the application.
- CBRR must sign and return the attached project agreement.
- Upon completion of the project, the applicant must submit photographs of each crossing and complete and sign an affidavit of project completion.
- Payment will be made upon presentation of claim for reimbursement and verification by Commission Staff that the work has been satisfactorily completed.
- The project must be completed and the associated request for reimbursement from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must be filed with the Commission no later than May 30, 2015.

11 (4) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on October 30, 2014.

12 (5) After reviewing CBRR's application filed on August 18, 2014, and giving due consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission grants the request for disbursement of funds.

O R D E R

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

13 Columbia Basin Railroad's application for disbursement from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund for passive crossing upgrades on their railroad lines in Grant, Franklin and Adams counties is granted, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) Expenditure from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must not exceed \$9,862.78.
- (2) The work for which the Grade Crossing Protective Fund disbursement was approved must conform to the project description specified in the application.
- (3) Columbia Basin Railroad must sign and return the attached project agreement.

- (4) Upon completion of the project, the applicant must submit photographs of each crossing and complete and sign an affidavit of project completion.
- (5) Payment will be made upon presentation of claim for reimbursement and verification by Commission Staff that the work has been satisfactorily completed.
- (6) The project must be completed and the associated request for reimbursement from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must be filed with the Commission no later than May 30, 2015.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective October 30, 2014.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

STEVEN V. KING, Executive Director and Secretary