

TR-072009

WASHINGTON



UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW  
PO Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250  
(360)664-1257 or (360)664-1100  
Fax: (360)586-1150  
Web: [www.wutc.wa.gov](http://www.wutc.wa.gov)  
E-mail: [records@utc.wa.gov](mailto:records@utc.wa.gov)

**GRADE CROSSING PROTECTIVE FUND  
APPLICATION FOR FUNDING**

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (commission), through its Grade Crossing Protective Fund (GCPF), funds projects that eliminate or mitigate public safety hazards at railroad crossings and along railroad rights-of-way in Washington State. Any public, private, or non-profit entity may submit an application to the commission for GCPF monies.

**Please complete and submit the following information as part of the application process:**

**Applicant Information**

Applicant Name: Dick Zais, City Manager  
Organization: City of Yakima  
Address: 129 North Second Street, Yakima, WA 98901  
Phone: (509) 575-6040  
E-mail:  
Fax: (509) 576-6335

Please list all other companies, organizations or state or local agencies that may be involved in implementing this proposal and the contact name, address and phone number for each.

Yakima Valley Trolleys  
Kenneth G. Johnson  
P.O. Box 796  
Yakima, WA 98907-0796  
[yakimavalleytrolleys@hotmail.com](mailto:yakimavalleytrolleys@hotmail.com)

Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad Company  
Daniel MacDonald, P.E.  
Managing Engineer – Seattle  
2454 Occidental Avenue South, Suite 1\_A  
Seattle, WA 98134  
(206) 625-6150, Fax (206) 625-6115  
[daniel.macdonald@bnsf.com](mailto:daniel.macdonald@bnsf.com)

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UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
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**Project Information**

1. *Provide a detailed summary of the hazard being addressed. Include:*
  - *Any information about accidents or incidents at the site.*
  - *Photographs, drawings or other materials that supports the application.*

**Currently, there are only two pedestrian crossing facilities for crossing the Naches River at the northern city limits of the City of Yakima. One is located at the eastern city limits (I-82) and the other is at the western city limits (Powerhouse Road). Due to this lack of pedestrian facilities, and despite “No Trespassing” signs, pedestrians occasionally use the BNSF railroad bridge to cross the Naches River. On July 12, 2007, a man and woman who were crossing the Naches River on the railroad bridge were struck by a passing train and seriously injured.**

**On several occasions recently, railroad police hired by BNSF have had to remove trespassers from the railroad property in this vicinity.**

2. *Provide a detailed description of the proposed project and explain how it will eliminate or mitigate the hazard. Include any drawings or construction plans for the proposed project.*

**This project will construct six-foot chain link fence to impede pedestrian and motor vehicle trespass onto BNSF property in the vicinity of the Naches River Bridge. As part of the William O. Douglas Trail project, a pedestrian pathway is planned to be constructed across the trolley bridge within the next couple of years. Fencing as shown on the attached drawing would deter pedestrians from accessing the railroad bridge. The fence would begin where Gordon Road crosses underneath the railroad tracks, then heads west approximately 150 feet across the trolley tracks to approximately 8-feet west of the trolley tracks, then head in a northwesterly direction parallel to the trolley tracks for approximately 670 feet, then make a 90 degree turn across the trolley tracks, then head in a northeasterly direction for approximately 70 feet to end adjacent to the BNSF south bridge abutment. At both locations where the fence crosses the trolley tracks, 20-foot gates will be installed. The fencing will continue east of the BNSF bridge for approximately 150 feet parallel to the Greenway Path.**

**In addition to improving safety, this fencing project may reduce the railroad’s requirement for police enforcement.**

3. *Provide cost estimates. Include:*
  - *Total costs of the project.*
  - *Names of parties contributing to the project and the amount each is contributing.*

**Total project costs are estimated to be \$37,000. The City is requesting a grant of \$20,000 toward this total from WUTC.**

## Grade Crossing Protective Fund Application Form

4. *Provide the name of the party responsible for long-term maintenance.*  
**The City of Yakima and/or the Yakima Greenway Foundation will provide longterm maintenance of the fence.**
  
5. *Provide an estimated timeline of project, if approved.*  
**Weather permitting; the project will be completed this fall. If not, the project will be completed next spring**
  
6. *Provide a description of how the project's success would be measured.*  
**Success of this project can be measured by demonstrating a decrease in trespass incidents and pedestrian accidents on the BNSF Bridge.**
  
7. *Provide any other information the applicant believes would be useful to the commission in considering the project.*  
**At several recent meetings, BNSF personnel have expressed their encouragement and approval of our plans to channel pedestrians away from railroad property and to reduce trespass by means of fencing.**
  
8. *If the project involves any construction, modification or demolition on a railroad right-of-way, complete the attached Railroad Commitment form. This includes fencing, gates or other structures located near enough to the tracks to be on the railroad right-of-way, modification to a grade crossing or any other project that involves railroad property or rights-of-way.*  
**See accompanying email from BNSF engineer Daniel MacDonald expressing the railroad's concurrence with this project.**

### **Submitting the Application**

After completing the GCPF application, please send the original to:

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
Attention: Grade Crossing Protective Fund  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW  
PO Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

A signed application may be filed electronically at [records@utc.wa.gov](mailto:records@utc.wa.gov). When filing electronically, please specify "Grade Crossing Protective Fund" in the subject line.

### **Assistance**

For questions or assistance, please contact:

- Kathy Hunter at (360)664-1257 or by e-mail at [khunter@utc.wa.gov](mailto:khunter@utc.wa.gov).
- David Pratt at (360)664-1100 or by e-mail at [dpratt@utc.wa.gov](mailto:dpratt@utc.wa.gov).

**Railroad Commitment**

The undersigned represents the Railroad Company in the GCPF application described as (enter a brief description):

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We have reviewed the application and are satisfied the conditions are the same as described by the applicant in this matter. We agree to allow construction, modification or demolition on a railroad right-of-way as described in the application.

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Printed name of Railroad Representative

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Signature of Railroad Representative

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Title

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Phone

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E-mail

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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