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**GRADE CROSSING PROTECTIVE FUND  
2017 – 2019 GRANT APPLICATION  
IMPROVEMENTS AT PUBLIC PASSIVE RAILROAD CROSSINGS**

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (commission), through its Grade Crossing Protective Fund (GCPF), provides grants for projects that eliminate or mitigate public safety hazards at railroad crossings and along railroad rights-of-way in Washington State. As part of this emphasis the commission is also committed to improving safety at public, passively-protected railroad crossings in Washington.

GCPF funds may be used for purchasing stop signs<sup>1</sup>, yield signs, retro-reflective tape, posts (if required), retro-reflective cross buck signs, and emergency notification signs to a maximum of \$250 for each crossing. Under this program, GCPF funds may not be used for labor costs if labor is provided by the applicant with current staff. All installations must comply with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, 2009 edition.

**To apply for a grant to improve safety at a passive railroad crossing, complete the following information and submit it and attachments to the commission.**

**Please be sure to complete the entire form. Incomplete or missing information can delay the grant review process.**

**Applicant Information**

Applicant Name: Meeker Southern Railroad (MSR)  
Signature: *James R. Forgette*  
Organization: Railroad – Shortline Class III  
Address: 4725 Ballard Avenue NW Seattle, WA 98107  
Phone: (206) 799-1245 and (206) 937-1426  
Email: jrforgette@hotmail.com  
cathrinelmartin@hotmail.com

<sup>1</sup> Replacement signs only. Proposals to install a stop sign at a crossing not currently stop-controlled requires an on-site diagnostic meeting with commission staff, the railroad and road authority, filing a petition and a commission order authorizing the installation.

**Project Information**

Attach additional sheets as necessary that provide the following:

1. A list of all other companies, organizations, state agencies or local governments that may be involved in implementing this proposal and the contact name, address and phone number or email address for each (if known).

NW Signal, LLC. - Kevin Kucera 14850 Lake Hills Blvd, Ste B2, Bellevue, WA 98007 kevin@nwsignal.com phone 425-802-1893
Traffic Signs Corp - Erin Benesh, 75 S. Owasso Blvd W, St Paul, MN 55117 erin@trafficsign.com phone 877-936-9998
National Barricade - 6518 Ravenna Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98115 phone 206-523-4045

2. A list of each railroad crossing, by USDOT number, street name, and county, where the applicant plans to improve safety. Indicate which type of warning sign or other measure will be installed.

See Appendix A excel attachment sent with Grant Application
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3. A cost estimate, including:
  - a. An itemized list of the total costs of the project.
  - b. Names of parties contributing to the project, including the applicant, and the amount each is contributing.

a. See Appendix B excel attachment - Itemized list of total costs
b. Meeker Southern Railroad Contribution :
o Emergency Notification Signs (20) - \$260.60
o High Reflective Upgrade Crossbuck Signs 48 x 9 (2) @ \$119.90
o High Reflective Upgrade Crossbuck 24.5 inch (1) @ \$44.00
o Sign freight - \$36.00
o Post with Reflective Upgrade Material - \$60.00
o Railroad Labor - \$360.00
Total railroad contribution for public crossings = \$880.50

4. An estimated timeline of the project.

The estimate for installation of ENS I-13 signs at the railroads public crossing is July 2, 2018. The railroad has already purchased 20 of the 22 ENS signs required to start installation as soon as grant approval. The estimate timeline for the other upgrade warning sign installation most likely will coincide with ENS; however, additional time might be required for those signs due to the uncertainty of the subcontractor work availability/schedule. The ENS signs are priority. I would estimate a timeframe no later than October 30th, 2018 for the remaining upgrade sign installation if they are not installed with the ENS signs. The grant project completion forms will be submitted approximately 30 days after installation and railroad pays subcontractor for work performed. If the preference of the committee is to submit completion information (photos) as the signs are installed, we can adhere.
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5. A description of the applicant’s experience in grant management or completing grant projects of this nature, including years of experience, types of projects completed and project cost/scope.

This is the Meeker Southern first grant application. As a small railroad with limited resources, we regularly subcontract out maintenance and upgrade projects requiring additional labor and resources. These rail subcontractors have specific expertise, experience, and resources relevant to the project, thereby, giving them the innate ability to accomplish the project with more proficiency and timeliness.

The railroad plans to hire NW Signal, LLC to install signs, including any required infrastructure. NW Signal has been performing signal, crossing, and other maintenance work for over 12 years in the area. They are Sound Transit’s signal maintenance company, which speaks highly to their experience, reliability, and quality. They perform work for other rail companies, including the Meeker Southern railroad; therefore, have a solid understanding of our railroad crossings’ and the grade crossing improvement project.

6. Any other information the applicant believes would be useful to the commission in evaluating the project.

The Meeker Southern Railroad (MSR) submits a request, under the Grade Crossing Protective Fund, a grant to assist in the cost of making required railroad safety crossing improvements. It will add ENS signs at all public crossings, including an associated County bike/pedestrian trail. It will upgrade existing crossbucks to make them more noticeable to the public, along with adding yield signs to improve public understanding when approaching a rail crossing. The result of all these safety improvements will reduce possible accidents and the severity with motorists, trucks, and the general public who crossing the railroad tracks.

The Meeker Southern RR, previously owned by the BNSF, is a Class III Shortline. The railroad operates approximately 5 miles from E. Puyallup, through residential, farmland, and light industry and ends at McMillin in Pierce County. We operate under GCOR 6.82, approx. 10 miles or less, with two trains a week over these crossings. There are twelve 12 public and 13 private crossings. Thousands of vehicles travel over our crossings daily, with the four heaviest being at County roads. The County traffic vehicle count latest (2016) estimates over our four main crossings are:

- Shaw Road E is a major arterial into downtown Puyallup. The average number of daily vehicles crossing is 19,000/15,400, North/Southbound respectively. Shaw Elementary School is located on 12th Ave E, one block south of the crossing.
- Pioneer Way E and w/o SR 162 traffic counts average 6,725 vehicles daily at this county road intersection. The rail crossing is just west of this road intersection. Pioneer Way E is also a major arterial into downtown Puyallup.

- Military Road intersects with SR 162 and the RRxing averaging 11,100 vehicles daily. The Foothill Bike and Pedestrian path also crosses with the Railroad and Road at this intersection.
- 128th Street East and SR 162 intersection averages 4,650 vehicles daily. This crossing does not have active protection warning devices.

There are several (7) elementary schools and middle schools whose bus routes travel over the crossings at Shaw RD E, Pioneer Way E, and 128th . These schools are all within 2 miles of the railroad.

Lastly, the Foothills Bike and Pedestrian Trail has several crossings with Meeker Southern, including two trailhead entrance points at 80th in Puyallup and in McMillin. Since is a 12 foot wide non-motorized paved continuous stretch of paved trail popular with bicycles, hikers, skaters, and wheel chairs. It is also a very popular commuter and school bike route. It is owned by the County and is part of the Rails to Trails Statewide Coalition promoting development and accessibility of non motorized transportation alternatives. It recently received significant state capital funding for continued development as an uninterrupted travel trail through Pierce County and ending in Puyallup. With the increase of this Trail’s popularity, hence usage, it is important that the railroad be granted funding to make safety improvements at these and other crossings. Thank you for your consideration to our application.

### **Railroad Commitment**

If the applicant does not own the railroad crossing, the applicant must submit the attached Railroad Commitment form signed and completed by the railroad owning the crossing.

### **Submitting the Application**

After completing the application, please send the original to:  
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

## 2017 – 2019 GCPF Application Form – Stop/Yield Signs at Crossings

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:

- Betty Young at (360) 664-1202 or [byoung@utc.wa.gov](mailto:byoung@utc.wa.gov)
- Lori Halstead at (360) 664-1262 or [lhalstea@utc.wa.gov](mailto:lhalstea@utc.wa.gov)

**Railroad Commitment**

The undersigned represents the Railroad Company in the accompanying GCPF grant application for funding to install a stop sign or yield sign, retro-reflective tape or retro-reflective cross buck signs, posts or emergency notification signs at the named railroad crossings. We have reviewed the application and agree to allow installation of the proposed safety devices as described in the application.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name of Railroad Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Railroad Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Railroad

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address of Railroad

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

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