

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Application of	)	DOCKET TR-143833
	)	
Washington State Department of	)	ORDER 01
Transportation,	)	
	)	
Applicant,	)	ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR
	)	DISBURSEMENT FROM THE GRADE
Requesting Disbursement from the	)	CROSSING PROTECTIVE FUND
Grade 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 November 7, 2014, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) filed with the Commission an application requesting a disbursement of \$12,250.00 from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund (GCPF) to pay for a project related to passive crossing upgrades.
  
- 3 WSDOT seeks to replace crossbuck posts and crossbucks, replace or install yield or stop signs, replace multiple track signs and install retroreflective tape at 49 public crossings on their railroad lines in Spokane and Whitman counties. Specific information about each crossing is contained in WSDOT’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. Multiple track signs alert the public that there are more than one set of tracks at the crossing.
  
- 5 The MUTCD also requires retroreflective crossbuck signs and a strip of retroreflective tape on crossbuck sign posts. The retroreflective signs and tape improve nighttime visibility, advising motorists of an approaching grade crossing.
  
- 6 WSDOT seeks \$12,250.00 to pay for the cost of the passive crossing upgrades. WSDOT owns the railroad line and contracts with Washington & Idaho Railway, who operates on

the railroad line. Washington & Idaho Railway will contribute the labor to install the signs. There currently are funds available to pay for the project.

- 7 WSDOT must also meet the following conditions for administering the GCPF grant.
- Expenditure from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must not exceed \$12,250.00.
  - The work for which the Grade Crossing Protective Fund disbursement was approved must conform to the project description specified in the application.
  - WSDOT 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 WSDOT 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 \$12,250.00.

- The work for which the Grade Crossing Protective Fund disbursement was approved must conform to the project description specified in the application.
- WSDOT 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 December 30, 2014.

12 (5) After reviewing WSDOT's application filed on November 7, 2014, and giving due consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission grants the request for disbursement of funds.

## **ORDER**

### **THE COMMISSION ORDERS:**

13 Washington State Department of Transportation's application for disbursement from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund for passive crossing upgrades on their railroad lines in Spokane and Whitman counties is granted, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) Expenditure from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must not exceed \$12,250.00.
- (2) The work for which the Grade Crossing Protective Fund disbursement was approved must conform to the project description specified in the application.

- (3) Washington State Department of Transportation 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 December 30, 2014.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

STEVEN V. KING, Executive Director and Secretary