

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Application of	)	DOCKET TR-130500
	)	
YAKIMA COUNTY,	)	ORDER 01
	)	
Applicant,	)	ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR
	)	DISBURSEMENT FROM THE GRADE
	)	CROSSING PROTECTIVE FUND
Requesting Disbursement from the	)	
Grade Crossing Protective Fund	)	USDOT #104518X
.....	)	

**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 April 4, 2013, Yakima County (Yakima County or Applicant) filed with the Commission an application requesting a disbursement of \$38,000 from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund (GCPF) to pay for a project related to crossing safety at South Track Road (Wapenish Road) in Yakima. Yakima County filed a revised application on October 16, 2013, with a lower grant request amount of \$19,932.84.
- 3     Yakima County seeks to install solar-powered advance warning signs with constant flashing LED blinkers on both approaches to the railroad crossing on South Track Road. BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) has reported several close calls between trains and vehicles at this crossing.
- 4     Railroad warning devices at the South Track Road crossing consist of shoulder mounted flashing lights, cross-bucks and pavement markings.
- 5     South Track Road is a two-lane roadway that carries approximately 850 vehicles per day. Commercial vehicles make up approximately one percent of total daily traffic. Two school buses travel over the crossing each day. Freight trains operate over this crossing 10 times a day at 55 to 60 miles per hour.
- 6     A site visit by Commission Staff confirmed that the safety problem described by Yakima County exists and that the proposed constant-flashing advance warning signs will improve the overall safety at the crossing because the LED flashing lights will provide greater visibility of the upcoming railroad crossing for the motoring public.

7 Yakima County seeks \$19,932.84 to pay for the cost of the crossing improvements. There currently are funds available to pay for the project.

8 Yakima County must also meet the following conditions for administering the GCPF grant.

- Expenditure from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must not exceed \$19,932.84.
- The work for which the Grade Crossing Protective Fund disbursement was approved must conform to the project description specified in the application.
- Yakima County 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 June 1, 2014.

### **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

9 (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.

10 (2) The project for which Yakima County 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.

11 (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 \$19,932.84.

- The work for which the Grade Crossing Protective Fund disbursement was approved must conform to the project description specified in the application.
- Yakima County 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 June 1, 2014.

12 (4) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on November 15, 2013.

13 (5) After reviewing Yakima County's application filed on April 4, 2013, and revised on October 16, 2013, 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:**

14 Yakima County's application for disbursement from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund for crossing improvements near Yakima, Washington, on South Track Road, is granted, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) Expenditure from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must not exceed \$19,932.84.
- (2) The work for which the Grade Crossing Protective Fund disbursement was approved must conform to the project description specified in the application.
- (3) Yakima County must sign and return the attached project agreement.
- (4) Payment will be made upon presentation of claim for reimbursement and verification by Commission Staff that the work has been satisfactorily completed.

- (5) 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 June 1, 2014.

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 November 15, 2013.

**WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**STEVEN V. KING, Executive Director and Secretary**