

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition of

CWW LLC,

Petitioner,

Seeking Approval to Upgrade Signals at a
Highway-Rail Grade Crossing and
Requesting Disbursement from the Grade
Crossing Protective Fund

DOCKET TR-210226

DECLARATION OF MICHAEL L.
TURCOTT

USDOT: 808939F

- 1 I, Michael L. Turcott, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington, declare as follows:
- 2 I am over 18 years of age, a citizen of the United States, a resident of the state of Washington, and competent to be a witness.
- 3 I am employed by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) as a Transportation Planning Specialist. I have been employed in this position at Lacey for two years.
- 4 In April 2021, CWW LLC petitioned the Commission for an expenditure from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund (GCPF) to modify a highway-rail grade crossing located at Prospect Avenue, identified as USDOT 808939F, in Walla Walla County. The Commission approved the petition with conditions recommended by Commission Staff (Staff). The order specifically conditions reimbursement to CWW from the GCPF on inspection and approval by Staff.
- 5 At the time Staff recommended the conditions, the Commission employed two inspectors certified by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) in the Signal and Train Control discipline. These inspectors inspect and verify all GCPF projects involving changes to a railroad signal system, such as the CWW project in this docket.
- 6 In mid-October 2021, these FRA-certified inspectors left state employment, leaving Staff without certified staff to complete these inspections. Staff is attempting to replace the departed inspectors, but cannot say when it will hire replacements who are properly certified by the FRA in Signals and Train Control.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 15th day of November 2021.

/s/ Michael L. Turcott
MICHAEL L. TURCOTT