

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Application of	)	DOCKET NO. TR-040288
	)	
THE CASCADE AND COLUMBIA	)	ORDER NO. 01
RIVER RAILROAD COMPANY	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR
Requesting Disbursement from the	)	DISBURSEMENT FROM THE GRADE
Grade Crossing Protective Fund	)	CROSSING PROTECTIVE FUND
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1     On December 12, 2003, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) sent a “Notice of Opportunity to Apply for Grant Monies from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund” to various interested parties from the public and private sectors that were either directly eligible to apply for Grade Crossing Protective Fund (GCPF) grants, or represented local agencies that were eligible. The notice directed interested parties to submit applications for funding consideration to the Commission by February 17, 2004.
- 2     On February 17, 2004, the Cascade and Columbia River Railroad Company (CCRR) filed an application with the Commission, requesting disbursement from the GCPF to pay for a project related to improving safety at private railroad crossings.
- 3     CCRR has over 100 private at-grade crossings along its rail line that are equipped with stop signs as the primary method of traffic control. At least 30 of these signs were installed in the 1970s and have become “faded beyond legibility” or are missing. CCRR seeks to install 30 new stop signs at private crossings along its right-of-way in Chelan and Okanogan Counties.
- 4     In their application, CCRR requested funding for one of two proposed options: 1) disburse \$4,200 to pay for 20 new stop signs with posts; or 2) disburse \$1,200 to

pay for 30 signs without posts. In either case, the signs would be installed and maintained by CCRR.

- 5 Due to the limited amount of GCPF funds available for disbursement, and CCRR's willingness to accept either alternative, Commission Staff recommended a disbursement of \$1,200 to pay for 30 signs without posts. There are currently funds available to pay for the project.

### FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6 (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. *Chapter 81.53.271 RCW and 81.53.281 RCW.*
- 7 (2) The project for which disbursement from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund is sought is eligible for funding consideration under the Grade Crossing Protective Fund Policy and Interpretive Statement in Docket No. TR-031384, and complies with the requirements of RCW 81.53.271 and RCW 81.53.281.
- 8 (3) Commission Staff investigated the request based on the review criteria specified in the Grade Crossing Protective Fund Policy and Interpretive Statement in Docket No. TR-031384, and recommended that it be granted, subject to specified conditions.
- 9 (4) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on June 9, 2004.
- 10 (5) After examination of the application filed by the Cascade and Columbia River Railroad Company on February 17, 2004, and giving consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission grants the request for disbursement of funds.

## ORDER

### THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

*11* The request of the Cascade and Columbia River Railroad Company seeking disbursement from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund for the installation of stop signs at private at-grade railroad crossings along its right-of-way is granted, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) Expenditure from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must not exceed \$1,200.
- (2) The work for which the Grade Crossing Protective Fund disbursement was approved must conform to the project description specified in the application.
- (3) Payment will be made upon presentation of claim for reimbursement for materials, and verification by Commission Staff that the work has been satisfactorily completed.
- (4) The project must be completed, and the associated request for reimbursement from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must be on file with the Commission no later than May 31, 2005.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, direct the Secretary to enter this Order.

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DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 9<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2004.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary