

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Application of

OLYMPIA & BELMORE  
RAILROAD, INC.

Petitioner,

Requesting Extension of Time to  
Complete Project Funded by the Grade  
Crossing Protective Fund

DOCKET TR-190859

ORDER 02

GRANTING EXTENSION OF TIME  
TO COMPLETE PROJECT AND  
SUBMIT REQUEST FOR  
REIMBURSEMENT

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On October 16, 2019, Olympia & Belmore Railroad, Inc., (Olympia & Belmore Railroad or Applicant) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) an application requesting a disbursement of \$1,851.98 from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund (GCPF) to pay for a project related to installing and replacing missing or defective warning signs, along with the required sign posts, hardware, and reflective striping, at 12 public and private railroad crossings located on its line in Thurston County. The Applicant filed an amended application on November 7, 2019, and filed an updated materials list on January 27, 2020. The total amount requested from the GCPF was \$1,764.13.
- 2 On February 6, 2020, the Commission issued an Order approving the request for disbursement from the GCPF. The Order required the Applicant to complete the project and submit the associated request for reimbursement by June 30, 2020.
- 3 On October 13, 2020, the Applicant submitted a request for an extension of time to April 30, 2021, to complete the project and submit the request for reimbursement. The Applicant explained that, due to an internal communication failure, staff responsible for executing the project were not aware of the grant approval and timeline for completion.
- 4 Staff recommends that the Commission extend the project completion date until April 30, 2021, to provide additional time for the project to be completed within the GCPF project completion deadline, which will ensure reimbursement documents are submitted before the current biennium ends on June 30, 2021.

## DISCUSSION

5 As authorized by RCW 81.53, the GCPF provides funding for projects that reduce  
accident frequency and severity at public and private railroad crossings, or reduce  
pedestrian trespassing and motorist injuries and deaths on railroad rights-of-way at places  
other than crossings. We find that the proposed improvements will increase crossing  
safety, and that extending the deadline is appropriate to ensure project completion.

## FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6 (1) The Commission is an agency of the state of Washington having authority under  
RCW 81.53.281 to approve and administer disbursements from the GCPF for rail  
safety projects.
- 7 (2) On October 16, 2019, Olympia & Belmore Railroad submitted an application for  
funding from the GCPF to pay for improvements at 12 passive crossings on its  
line in Olympia.
- 8 (3) On February 6, 2020, the Commission approved Olympia & Belmore Railroad's  
application for funding.
- 9 (4) On October 13, 2020, the Applicant requested an extension of the project period  
and deadline for applying for reimbursement to April 30, 2021.
- 10 (5) Commission Staff investigated the Applicant's request for extension and  
recommends that it be granted. Granting the extension helps ensure timely  
completion of the project and submission of reimbursement documents.
- 11 (6) After reviewing Olympia & Belmore Railroad's request for extension, and giving  
due consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the  
Commission finds that granting additional time to complete this project and apply  
for reimbursement is appropriate and in the public interest, and grants the  
extension of time to April 30, 2021.

## ORDER

### THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

12 The terms of Order 01 remain in full force and effect with the following change:

- (1) 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 April 30, 2021.

13 The Secretary of the Commission has delegated authority over this matter pursuant to Order 01 in Docket A-180762. The Secretary finds this Order to be consistent with the public interest.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective November 18, 2020.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARK L. JOHNSON,  
Executive Director and Secretary

**NOTICE TO PARTIES: This is an order delegated to the Executive Secretary for decision. As authorized in WAC 480-07-904(3), you must file any request for Commission review of this order no later than 14 days after the date the decision is posted on the Commission's website.**