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Grade Crossing Protection Fund APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

The Commission's objectives in distributing monies from its Grade Crossing Protective Fund (GCPF) are as follows: To reduce accident/incident frequency and severity at both public and private railroad crossings; and to reduce pedestrian trespassing and the frequency of trespass-related deaths and injuries along railroad rights-of-way. Any public, private, or nonprofit entity may submit an application to the Commission for GCPF monies.

The focus of the GCPF program is to fund projects that demonstrate a need for improved public safety related to one of the following four categories:

- **Grade crossing safety projects** (the Commission's original GCPF program).
- **Trespass prevention projects.** Examples of projects in this category include fencing or other physical barriers that prevent trespassing on railroad rights-of-way; pedestrian warning devices; establishing new public grade crossings; installing channeling devices; media/public relations campaigns; and enforcement-related activities.
- **Private crossing safety improvements.** Examples of projects in this category include private crossing closures; installation of private crossing-specific warning devices; installation of nighttime/off-hours locked gates; and improvements to reflectorization/conspicuousness of existing warning devices.
- **Miscellaneous safety projects.** Examples of projects in this category include improvements to motorists' ability to see approaching trains, including the removal of physical obstructions; participation in roadway improvements at or approaching grade crossings; and mitigation of crossing closures.

All projects that fall within any of these four general categories are eligible for funding consideration.

Applicant Name: Bob Boston

Organization: Washington Operation Lifesaver

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Olympia, WA 98504

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Type of Application: Trespass prevention – FENCING AT KELSO MP 97 AREA

Private crossing safety improvement

Trespass prevention

Miscellaneous

Please list all of the other companies (e.g., railroad companies) organizations, or state or local agencies that may be involved in implementing this proposal and the name, address and phone number of each. Toy Washington – Senior Special Agent (BNSF Railway) 1515 W. 39th St. – Vancouver, WA 98660 360-418-6367

Note: Requests for public grade crossing safety projects will be continue to be processed through the Commission’s regular petition process.

Project Information – Please attach additional information if needed.

- 1) *Provide a detailed summary of the hazard being addressed, including any accident/incident information or other supporting data. If filing this application electronically, photographs, drawings, or other optional materials that are not in electronic format may be sent to the mailing address specified in the “instructions” section and should be clearly identified as an attachment to your application: The BNSF Railway Northwest Division, Seattle Subdivision, runs through Kelso, WA. In the vicinity of milepost 97 under the Allen Street overcrossing there is a 1500 foot area from the overcrossing north in need of fencing to reduce public access to the tracks. Train crews have reported numerous near-hits with trespassers in this area. People are accessing a city park and the river at numerous locations along this 1500 foot section. Currently, there are no public crossings in this immediate area. There is a paved public pathway that extends through Kelso on the west side of the tracks along the river which is heavily used by pedestrians and bicyclists. When the Allen Street overcrossing was built, it was originally designed to allow for pedestrian access over the tracks to access the park and pathway, but budget problems eliminated it from the final plans.*

- 2) *Provide a detailed description of your proposed project and explain how its implementation will eliminate or mitigate the hazard. If available, please attach any drawings or construction plans for your proposed project (see section 1 if filing electronically): Several portions of the public pathway are currently fenced from the railroad right-of-way. 1500 feet of fencing would connect two of those sections and greatly reduce trespass incidents.*

- 3) *Provide cost estimates, including those related to long-term maintenance:*
1500 feet of WSDOT Type 1 High Galvanized Chain Link Fencing = \$15,460

Above pricing includes installation labor costs.

- 4) *Estimated timeline of project, if approved:*
September, 2004

- 5) *If known, provide a description of how the project’s success would be measured:*
A substantial reduction of near-hit reports from train crews would indicate that the fencing is a success. Continued education with Operation Lifesaver programs is also necessary in this area.

- 6) *Other comments:*
This project is contingent on the approval of the City of Kelso. The fencing would be constructed on city property and the city would be asked to maintain the fence at their cost.

For questions or assistance, please contact Ahmer Nizam at 360-664-1345 (e-mail anizam@wutc.wa.gov) or Sally Turnbull at 360-664-1230 (e-mail Sturnbul@wutc.wa.gov)

Instructions

After completing the Grade Crossing Protective Fund application, please send the original and two copies to:

**Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
Attention: Grade Crossing Protective Fund
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW
Olympia, WA 98504-7250**

Applications are available at www.wutc.wa.gov/GCPFgrants, and may be filed electronically at railinfo@wutc.wa.gov. When filing electronically, please specify "Grade Crossing Protective Fund" in the subject line.

Please ensure that the names and addresses of representatives from the relevant railroad company and local jurisdiction are correct and listed in the application.

Funding

RCW 81.53.271 allows the Commission to grant up to twenty thousand dollars for selected projects without requiring a monetary match. The Commission, however, may limit the amount of funding per project to a lesser amount so that an optimal number of projects may be funded with regard to relative safety benefits and project costs. The Commission may also consider funding for larger safety projects for which the GCPF grant would constitute some portion of the total cost.

Selection of Projects

The Commission will initiate a "call for projects," soliciting applications within a specific timeframe. After the specified submittal deadline, all applications will be reviewed simultaneously. Further information about the Grade Crossing Protective Fund may be obtained on the Commission's website at www.wutc.wa.gov/GCPFgrants, or by contacting Ahmer Nizam at (360) 664-1345 or Sally Turnbull at (360) 664-1230.

The Commission will review and select projects for funding based on the relative severity of the hazard being addressed, the safety benefits resulting from a project, the costs of implementing a project, and geographic diversity. For projects that require physical installations and are selected after an initial prioritization of applications,* Commission Staff will organize an on-site meeting with representatives of the railroad, local agency, the applicant (if different from the railroad or local agency), and other entities if appropriate. The purpose of the meeting is to verify information included in the application, gain first-hand knowledge of the hazard and proposal, and give all relevant parties an opportunity to recommend alternatives or additional safety needs. The Commission will approve at an open meeting all projects that receive GCPF funds, as well as the amount of any GCPF funding, if any, to be awarded to each project.

* Since funding is limited, an initial prioritization will reduce the number of eligible applicants to a number consistent with the amount of funding available.

Final award of GCPF grants will be contingent upon the recipient signing an agreement specifying the terms of the grant.