

WASHINGTON



UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

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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 98504-7250

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Type of Application: Trespass prevention

- 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.

City of Seattle (Risk Management) – Bruce Hori, Director 206-386-0073 P.O. Box 94769
Seattle, WA 98124

BNSF Railway – Andrew Johnson, Director Govt. Affairs 206-625-6135 2454 Occidental
Ave. South Seattle, WA 98134-1451

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:*

Nine fatalities involving pedestrians being struck by trains have occurred in the past ten years in the Golden Gardens area of North Seattle. Lack of fencing to keep trespassers away from the railroad tracks at Golden Gardens Park has contributed to the ongoing problem. Education efforts and law enforcement patrols have not been able to adequately deter the public from accessing the tracks and putting their lives in serious danger at this location. Fencing is needed to keep people away from the dangerous railroad right-of-way. All too often, freight trains are stopped at this location waiting to get into the Interbay rail yard and people walk around them or cut through them and end up getting hit by a fast moving train on the other track.

- 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):*

Construction of fencing (chain link 6 feet high) starting at the north end of Golden Gardens Park at the rock seawall and continuing south along the BNSF Railway right-of-way for approximately 2000 feet. Adequate fencing will keep the majority of would-be trespassers away from the railroad tracks and thus improve public safety by eliminating some incidents that would certainly occur without fencing in place.

- 3) *Provide cost estimates, including those related to long-term maintenance:*

2,000 feet chain link fencing (6 foot high) materials & installation - \$20,000

Additional material, installation and maintenance cost will be addressed by the City of Seattle and the BNSF Railway.

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

Project to be completed by June 1, 2006

- 5) *If known, provide a description of how the project's success would be measured:*

The number of incidents (injuries/fatalities) occurring after completion of the project will be the main factor in determining success.

6) *Other comments:*

Washington Operation Lifesaver will also be providing “DANGER – NO TRESPASS” signage that will be installed on the completed fencing and surrounding area to help deter people from making bad decisions and compromising the fencing. This includes the installation of Operation Lifesaver memorial signs that remind the public of what has happened. Education and enforcement activity will also be a continued emphasis in this area.

For questions or assistance, please contact Mark Halliday at 360-664-1232 (e-mail mhallida@wutc.wa.gov) or Vicki Elliott at 360-664-1100 (e-mail velliott@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 Mark Halliday at (360) 664-1232 or Vicki Elliott at (360) 664-1100.

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

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