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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: Tiffin Goodman
Organization: City of Auburn
Address: 25 West Main Street Auburn, WA 98001
Office Phone: 253-804-5040
E-mail: tgoodman@auburnwa.gov
Cell Phone: _____
Fax Number: 253-931-3053

Type of Application: Fence Gap Closure

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.

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 railroad right-of-way is unprotected on the southwest side of the Auburn Transit Station because of a 325 ft. gap in the fence delineating the sidewalk from the railroad right-of-way. The gap leaves a significant opening along an obvious pedestrian desire line. With the opening, pedestrians are able to travel from C Street SW, across the railroad line, to access the bus loading zones, northbound train boarding platform, and parking garage. The sidewalk adjacent to the tracks is heavily utilized by pedestrians accessing the transit station from the south.

While there is a pedestrian bridge across the tracks, one must climb up and down four stories to utilize it. Alternatively, pedestrians can cross at grade on the north side of the transit station (West Main Street crossing). Nonetheless, there is a tendency for pedestrians to take the shorter trip across the unprotected portion of the tracks, rather than to walk to one of the legal crossings. This is a dangerous situation the City would like to remedy.

The attached photographs demonstrate the severity of the situation.

- 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):*

The City of Auburn is proposing to install a 6 ft. chain linked fence to close the gap in the fencing along the railroad right-of-way. Currently, there is fencing directly south of the Auburn Transit Station’s southbound boarding platform. This fencing extends for 280 feet before the start of the 325 ft. gap. The fencing can be installed entirely on the City’s right-of-way. BNSF has expressed support for this project.

The attached map identifies the location of the existing fence, as well as the gap in fencing.

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

Project Cost/Funding Request

<u>Phase/Description</u>	<u>Project Cost</u>	<u>Grade Crossing Protection Fund Request</u>
Design (<i>Engineering & Construction</i>)	\$1,600	\$1,600
Fence Construction (<i>PVC coated, chain linked fence, 6 ft. tall, 325 ft. long</i>)	\$10,250	\$10,250
Sales Tax	\$900	\$900
Contingency	\$1,000	\$1,000
Total	\$ 13,750	\$13,750

** Annual maintenance is minimal and will be performed by the City’s Maintenance and Operations division, through their current operations. Maintenance will be funded through the City’s annual budget.*

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

The improvement will be made within 6 months of receiving the grant funds.

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

There is not a quantitative method for measuring the project's success as railroad trespassing is generally unreported and only discovered following an accident. However, the City is certain this improvement will help significantly to prevent trespassing, thereby lowering the likelihood of a pedestrian injury or fatality in the future.

6) *Other comments:*

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.

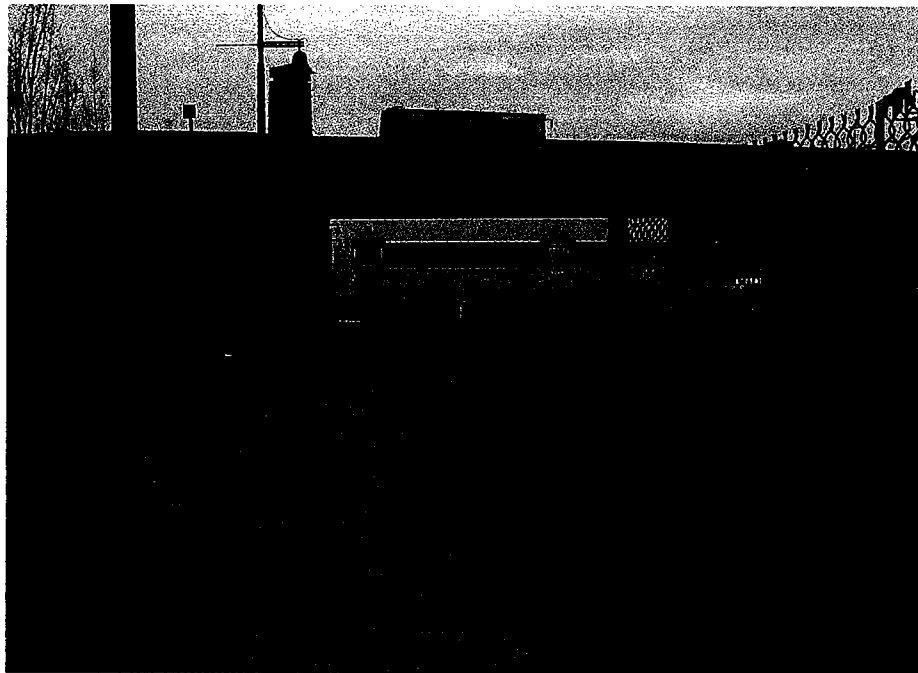
The Commission will review and select projects for funding based on the relative severity of the hazard being addressed, the safety benefits resulting from a project, the costs of implementing a project, and geographic diversity. For projects that require physical installations and are selected after 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.

Fence Gap Photographs
Auburn Transit Station/BNSF Railway



Fence Gap
Looking southbound from the train platform



Fence Gap
Looking northbound from the sidewalk



**FENCE GAP - AUBURN STATION/BNSF
PROJECT VICINITY MAP**

LEGEND

- TRANSIT STATION PLATFORM
- EXISTING 6 FT FENCE
- CITY LIMITS
- RIVERS



Note: Information shown is for general reference purposes only and does not necessarily represent actual geographic or cartographic data as mapped.

