

# **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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Type of Application: <u>Trespass prevention – FENCING PROJECT AT EDMONDS</u>
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 Edmonds (Public Works) – Dave Gebbart 121 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. N. Edmonds, WA 98020 425-771-0220

BNSF Railway – Dan MacDonald 2454 Occidental Ave. S. Seattle, WA 98134-1451 206-625-6146

*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 Scenic Subdivision crosses SR 104 in Edmonds at the ferry terminal. Railroad milepost is 17.66. Most of the vehicle and pedestrian traffic going to and from the ferry terminal cross the railroad at this location. Railroad Avenue is adjacent to the west side of the crossing and some pedestrians and vehicles use this route. There is a four-foot high chain link fence between the tracks and Railroad Avenue to keep pedestrians off the railroad right of way. The fence, however, ends 48 feet short of the legal crossing location and many pedestrians are cutting through and trespassing onto railroad property. On the east side of the tracks, another four-foot fence separates a large parking lot from the railroad right-of-way. This fence also needs to be extended approximately 12 feet to keep pedestrians from trespassing onto the tracks. Several near hits between trains and pedestrians have occurred in the past year.

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 four-foot high) beginning where the current fence ends and continuing for approximately 48 feet to the crossing. Additional construction of another section of four-foot high chain link fencing between the existing fence and a utility pole on the east side of the tracks. Adequate fencing would keep the majority of pedestrians from taking a short cut through the current open areas that allow access of the railroad right-of-way.

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

60 feet chain link fencing (four-feet high) materials, installation & maintenance - \$3,000 Flagging and permit costs ------<u>\$1,200</u>

Total \$4,200

4) Estimated timeline of project, if approved:

Project to be completed by July 1, 2006

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

Success would be measured by a reporting of incidents from train crews or other reliable sources.

*Other comments:* 

#### PHOTOS ATTACHED

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 <a href="www.wutc.wa.gov/GCPFgrants">www.wutc.wa.gov/GCPFgrants</a>, and may be filed electronically at <a href="mailinfo@wutc.wa.gov">railinfo@wutc.wa.gov</a>. 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**

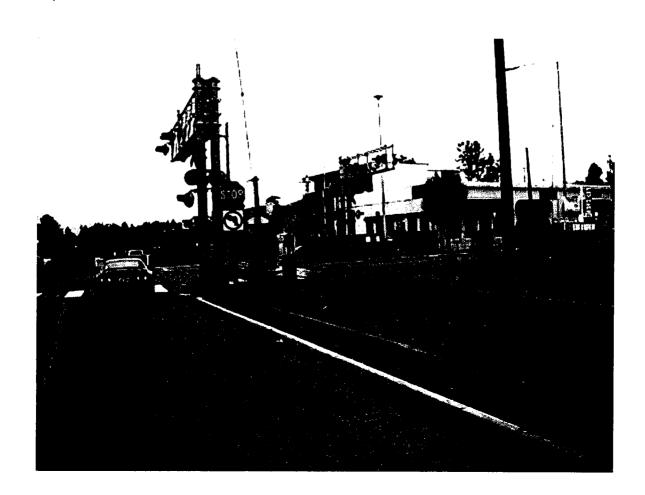
RCW 81.53.271 allows the Commission to grant up to twenty thousand dollars for selected projects without requiring a monetary match. The Commission, however, may limit the amount of funding per project to a lesser amount so that an optimal number of projects may be funded with regard to relative safety 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 <a href="https://www.wutc.wa.gov/GCPFgrants">www.wutc.wa.gov/GCPFgrants</a>, or by contacting Mark Halliday at (360) 664-1232 or Vicki Elliott at (360) 664-1100.



APPROXIMATELY 48 FEET OF FENCING NEEDED TO ROUTE PEDESTRIANS TO SAFER CROSTING LOCATION.





FENCE Need To SE Extended To UTILITY POLE

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.

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