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STATE OF WASHINGTON  
UTIL. AND TRANSP.  
COMMISSION

1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW  
Post Office Box 47250  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250  
Toll-free 1-888-606-9566 or 360-664-1222  
Fax 360-586-1181 or 360-586-1118  
TTY 360-586-8203 or 1-877-210-5963  
Web: [www.wutc.wa.gov](http://www.wutc.wa.gov)

## 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 – FENCING EXTENSION AT UNDERWOOD

Private crossing safety improvement

X  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. 39<sup>th</sup> 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 Fallbridge Subdivision in the Columbia River Gorge runs adjacent to State Route 14. Last year, a GCPF project requested fencing for both sides of the railroad bridge at Underwood, WA. More than 600 feet of fencing was installed on the east and west ends of the bridge to mitigate a trespass problem. Danger signs were also posted at many locations in the area. After the installation of both the fencing and danger signs a trespasser was fatally struck near the west end of the fencing. Other pedestrians were also observed trespassing onto the railroad right-of-way to get a better look at activities along the river.

- 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 installation of 700 feet of fencing starting at the west end of the current fence should deter trespassers from accessing the railroad right-of-way from the parking area located just west of the railroad bridge. It would still be possible to go around the end of the fence, but it would be quite a distance away from the parking area.

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

700 feet WSDOT Type 1 Chain Link Fencing -----	\$ 9,800.00
Flagging -----	\$ 950.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,750.00</b>

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

July 2006

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

*Success can be measured by gathering data from train crews and other qualified observers to see if a reduction in trespass sightings and incidents is achieved.*

6) *Other comments:*

The Columbia River Gorge will continue to be an emphasis area for Washington Operation Lifesaver to conduct public safety education through special events and presentations. The law enforcement community will also be asked to pay attention to trespass activity in this area and take appropriate action.

**PHOTOS ATTACHED**

For questions or assistance, please contact Mark Halliday at 360-664-1232 (e-mail [mhallida@wutc.wa.gov](mailto:mhallida@wutc.wa.gov)) or Vicki Elliott at 360-664-1100 (e-mail [velliott@wutc.wa.gov](mailto: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](http://www.wutc.wa.gov/GCPFgrants), and may be filed electronically at [railinfo@wutc.wa.gov](mailto: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](http://www.wutc.wa.gov/GCPFgrants), or by contacting Mark Halliday at (360) 664-1232 or Vicki Elliott at (360) 664-1100.



WEST END OF FENCING AT UNDERWOOD



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.

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