

WASHINGTON



UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

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Post Office Box 47250  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250  
360-664-1232 or 360-664-1222  
Fax 360-586-1150  
TTY 360-586-8203 or 1-877-210-5963  
Web: [www.wutc.wa.gov](http://www.wutc.wa.gov)  
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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 to reduce accident 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.** Grants for improvements to warning devices at public grade crossings must be requested through the commission's petition process pursuant to RCW 81.53.261. Contact Kathy Hunter at (360) 664-1257 for more information.
- **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 or 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 or off-hours locked gates, and improvements to 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.

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COMMUNICATIONS

**Please complete and submit the following information as part of the application process.**

Applicant Name: Bob Boston

Organization: Washington Operation Lifesaver

Address: 1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW

Olympia, WA 98504

Office Phone: 360-664-1264

E-mail: bgboston@comcast.net

Cell Phone: 360-701-1615

Fax Number: 360-586-1172

Type of Application: Education and training materials for bilingual education at state migrant centers, and public broadcast (radio/television) commercials.

- Private crossing safety improvement
- Trespass prevention
- X Miscellaneous (EDUCATION AND TRAINING)

*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.*

Chris Adams – Federal Railroad Administration – 4106 NE 47<sup>th</sup> Ave. – Vancouver, WA 98661 – Phone 360-931-1239.

Tina Betancourt – Washington State Migrant Council – 1100 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street – Sunnyside, WA 98944 – Phone 509-837-8909.

*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 state of Washington has a very large population of migrant farm workers and their families who primarily speak only Spanish. They work and go to school in areas where there is much interaction with rail traffic. There have been incidents and close calls between trains and the migrant population. Grade crossing and trespass danger education has primarily been targeted to the English speaking population and efforts must be made to train bilingual presenters and provide safety education to the Spanish speaking population.

- 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):*

Every migrant program center in the state of Washington must be visited and offered Operation Lifesaver programs for their schools, bus drivers, parent meetings and staff. Bilingual teachers at various migrant centers around the state will be trained to be certified presenters and deliver rail safety education to their Spanish and English speaking members. This will include production and translation of videos and public service announcements in Spanish. It will also include the purchase of Spanish education materials and brochures.

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

Presentation chart sets and materials for classes	\$ 7,000
Video/PSA production and translation	\$ 7,000
Broadcast time on television/radio	<u>\$ 6,000</u>
	\$20,000

- 4) *Estimated timeline of project, if approved:*  
Project to be complete by June 30, 2007

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

If enough bilingual presenters can be trained and certified to provide Spanish rail safety presentations for the students and parents at all of the 26 migrant program centers in the state, the project will be successful.

6) *Other comments:*

Enclosed with this application is a sample of some of the Spanish materials that are distributed at bilingual Operation Lifesaver presentations.

For questions or assistance, please contact Mark Halliday at 360-664-1232 (e-mail [mhallida@wutc.wa.gov](mailto:mhallida@wutc.wa.gov)) or Kathy Hunter at 360-664-11257 (e-mail [khunter@wutc.wa.gov](mailto:khunter@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). A signed application may be filed electronically at [records@wutc.wa.gov](mailto:records@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 Kathy Hunter at (360) 664-1257.

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