

WASHINGTON



UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW
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
E-Mail: records@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 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.

RECORDED
OCT -5 PM 4:34

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: Rail Safety for Emergency Responders-Computer Based Training program

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

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.

Steve Mills – Washington Operation Lifesaver/BNSF Railway – 166 Lacey Lane - Toledo, WA 98591 – Phone 206-601-1001.

Steve Neubauer (project leader) – BNSF Railway – 3265 Arrowleaf Ct. – Castle Rock, CO 80104 – Phone 303-480-7913.

Sheldon Senek – Ohio Operation Lifesaver – 5075 Fisher Road – Columbus, OH 43228 Phone 614-771-3071.

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:*

Emergency Responders (fire fighters and law enforcement) respond to thousands of grade crossing crashes and train derailments each year. It is extremely important that they know how to correctly handle dangerous situations involving overturned locomotives containing deadly high-voltage current, hazardous material cargo spills, ruptured tank cars, and many other situations that could lead to disaster if not handled properly.

- 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):*

A training program for emergency responders known as Rail Safety for Emergency Responders (RSER) was developed through Colorado Operation Lifesaver and the Program Development Council of Operation Lifesaver, Inc. The RSER program is a four-hour instruction course that is taught to fire department personnel and other emergency responders. There are not enough certified instructors available to provide classes in a timely manner to the thousands of fire departments that need to be properly trained in order to keep the public safe from potentially catastrophic events that can unfold during response to a crossing collision or derailment. A web based instruction course would greatly expand the reach of this important training program.

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

Script/Narration	\$ 6,000	
Web based program development	\$11,000	
Web site server	<u>\$ 8,000</u>	
	\$25,000	Amount requested = \$20,000

In-kind services (labor costs) are estimated at \$40,000

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

Project to be completed by June 30, 2007

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

The Web site hosting the computer based training program will be monitored for usage. Students are required to get a passing score on the final test before a certificate can be issued. The fire departments signing up and their personnel completing the course will be monitored to help measure the success of the program.

6) *Other comments:*

Enclosed with this application is a student manual for the current RSER training that is taught in the classroom by certified instructors. Also enclosed is a CD-ROM containing a similar course that was developed for Grade Crossing Collision Investigation (GCCCI).

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