



UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

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**GRADE CROSSING PROTECTIVE FUND
2009 – 2011 GRANT APPLICATION
OPEN CALL FOR PROJECTS**

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (commission), through its Grade Crossing Protective Fund (GCPF), provides grants for projects that eliminate or mitigate public safety hazards at railroad crossings and along railroad rights-of-way in Washington State. Any public, private or non-profit entity may submit an application to the commission for a GCPF grant.

To apply for a grant to eliminate or mitigate a public safety hazard at a railroad crossing or along a railroad right-of-way, complete the following information and submit it and attachments to the commission.

Applicant Information

Applicant Name: Scott Davis
Organization: Thurston County Public Works
Address: 9605 Tilley Rd SW, Olympia WA 98512
Phone: (360) 709-3034
E-mail: davissa@co.thurston.wa.us
Fax: (360) 709-3096

Project Information

Attach additional sheets as necessary to the application that provide the following:

1. **A detailed summary of the hazard being addressed. Include any information about accidents or incidents at the site and photographs, drawings or other materials that support the application.**

The Old Hwy 99 under-crossing at the BNSF railroad near Offutt Lake is 12'6". Old Hwy 99 is a high volume two-lane rural arterial roadway with an average daily traffic volume approaching

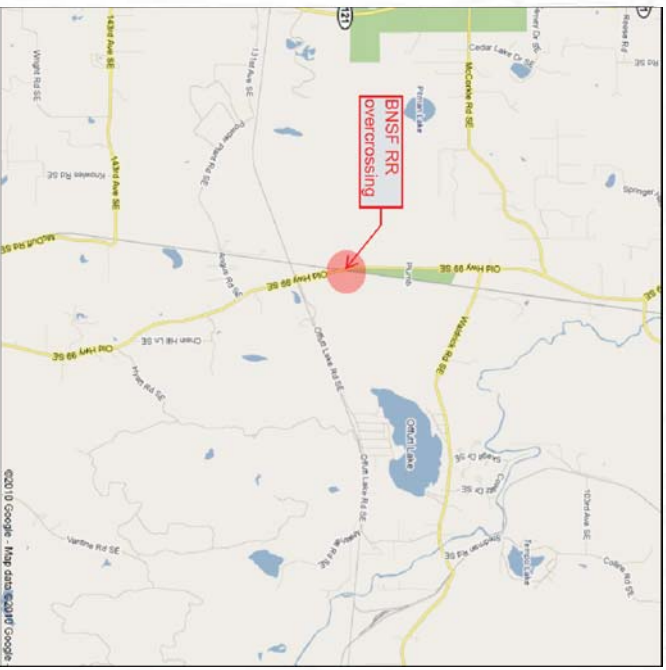
GCPF Application Form

9000. This portion of Old Hwy 99 also considered a T4 freight route. This means between 100,000-400,000 tons of freight is transported annually on this portion of Old Hwy 99.

Thurston County has signage on county and state routes indicating the height restriction. However, between 2007 and 2009 there were 8 dispatches of sheriff deputies to assist commercial vehicles that were unable to pass under the railroad. This assistance involves providing traffic control to allow these vehicles to back up ½ mile to 1 mile to the nearest turnaround. This does not include informal dispatches of the Public Works Commercial Vehicle Inspector which is estimated to be about once a month. During this same time there were two reported crashes of commercial vehicles striking the railroad bridge structure.



These ongoing incidents and crashes indicate there may be an increasing risk to the railroad overcrossing as traffic volumes and freight movements increase on Old Hwy 99. These incidents also expend our limited law enforcement resources needlessly and may reduce the level of safety on this roadway.



2. **A detailed summary of the proposed project and how it will eliminate or mitigate the hazard. Include any drawings or construction plans for the proposed project.**

The continued incidents of commercial vehicles either being involved in crashes or in need of law enforcement assistance to backup indicates there may be an opportunity to enhance the information provided to commercial vehicle drivers.

Thurston County proposed replacing existing signs to improving reflectivity, increasing sign size, add information to enhance legibility and adding additional signs on Old Hwy 99 and roads leading to Old Hwy 99 such as State Route 510 and 121 to provide additional notice to direct drivers to alternate routes if possible. These sign enhancements include using different colors to emphasize messaging, providing instructions (i.e., alternate routes) and distance information to the low clearance restriction. For example the yellow height restriction sign shown on the first page would have a placard indicating the distance the restriction (i.e., 1 mile, ½ mile, etc...). Also See attached plan for a preliminary signing plan.

3. **A list all other companies, organizations, state agencies or local governments that may be involved in implementing this proposal and the contact name, address and phone number for each (if known).**

Washington Department of Transportation will need to be contacted to coordinate replacement of signs on State Routes.

4. **A cost estimate, including:**
 - a. **An itemized list of the total costs of the project.**
 - b. **Names of parties contributing to the project, including the applicant, and the amount each is contributing.**

Thurston County is asking the UTCG to fund 100% of the work. This includes design efforts, purchasing materials and installation. Materials include wood sign posts, aluminum signs and hardware needed for installation. The following is a cost breakdown by phase and funding source:

ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS			
PHASE	UTC GRANT	THURSTON COUNTY	TOTAL
DESIGN	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000
MATERIALS	14,000	\$0	\$14,000
CONSTRUCTION	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000
TOTAL	\$18,000	\$0	\$18,000

5. **The name of the party responsible for long-term maintenance, such as repair of fencing.**

The Thurston County Public Works Department would be responsible for the long term maintenance of the proposed project.

6. An estimated timeline of the project.

Thurston County can complete proposed work within 6 months of executing the project agreement. Assuming the agreement is signed by January 2011 the following schedule should hold depending on weather and delivery of materials.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE	
DESIGN	March 2011
MATERIAL PURCHASE	April 2011
INSTALLATION	June 2011

7. A description of how the project's success would be measured.

A measure of success will be an indication the overall risk of the structure and roadway safety is reduced. This will be measured by the number of dispatches to the county sheriff's office and to the public works commercial vehicle inspector and number of reported crashes. If commercial vehicle crashes are reduced and dispatches are reduced then we will know the project is likely a success.

8. Any other information the applicant believes would be useful to the commission in considering the project.

None at this time.

Railroad Commitment

Railroad Commitment Attached

GCPF Application Form

Railroad Commitment

The undersigned represents the Railroad Company in the accompanying GCPF application. We have reviewed the application and are satisfied the conditions are the same as described by the applicant in this matter. We agree to allow construction, modification or demolition on a railroad right-of-way as described in the application.

Megan McIntyre
Printed name of Railroad Representative

[Signature]
Signature of Railroad Representative

Manager Pull's Projects
Title

206.625.6413
Phone

megan.mcintyre@burl.com
E-mail

Date: 10-11-2010

PRELIMINARY
 NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

Design:	SD
Drafted:	SB
Checked:	SD
Scale:	NTS
DWG File:	

Date:	
Revisions:	

OLD HWY 99 BNSF UNDERPASS

SIGN LOCATION AND DETAILS

LEGEND

- EXISTING SIGNS TO BE UPGRADED (#)
- NEW PROPOSED SIGNS (#)
- EXISTING SIGNS TO BE UPGRADED (#)

Low Clearance
 Old Hwy 99 SW
 Vehicles over 12'-6"
 Prohibited on Old Hwy 99
 Turnwater to Tenno

Use Alt Route →

Exit at Waldick Rd
 xxx ft →

Exit at Offut Lk Rd
 xxx ft ←

Use Alt Route →

Southbound Traffic
 Use Tilley Rd ←

Northbound Traffic
 Use Tilley Rd ←

To Tenno &
 Old Hwy 99 SE ←

To Turnwater
 Old Hwy 99 SE →

AHEAD

XX MILES

12'-6"

W12-2

12'-6"

36"x36"

SIGN NOTES

All ground mounted signs shall be sheet aluminum per Standard Specification, Section 9-28.8.

All ground mounted signs shall meet the specification noted for Type IV Micro Prismatic Retroreflective Element Material as shown in section 9-28.12.

