

TR-131549-AF



1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW  
 PO Box 47250  
 Olympia, WA 98504-7250  
 (360)664-1257 or (360)664-1100  
 Fax: (360)586-1150  
 Web: [www.utc.wa.gov](http://www.utc.wa.gov)  
 E-mail: [records@utc.wa.gov](mailto:records@utc.wa.gov)

**GRADE CROSSING PROTECTIVE FUND  
 2011 – 2013 GRANT APPLICATION  
 OPEN CALL FOR PROJECTS**

2013 AUG 21 11:14 AM  
 STATE OF WASHINGTON  
 UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
 RECORDS MANAGEMENT CENTER

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 any attachments to the Commission.**

**Applicant Information**

Applicant Name: Steve Worley, P.E., Sr, Capital Projects Engineer  
 Signature: *Steve M. Worley*  
 Organization: City of Spokane Valley  
 Address: 11707 E. Sprague Ave, Suite 106, Spokane Valley, WA 99206  
 Phone: 509-720-5014  
 Email: sworley@spokanevalley.org  
 Fax: 509-688-0261

**Project Information**

Attach additional sheets as necessary 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.

GCPF Application Form – Open Call for Projects

*Background: There are two public railroad crossings located within 100 feet on Vista Road:*

*USDOT #66375W – Vista Road*

*USDOT #66376D – Vista Road*

*The railroad crossings at Vista Road and Trent Ave (SR290) consist of two mainline tracks. Both crossings are equipped with cantilever mounted gates and eight inch lights. The mainline tracks are a primary east-west corridor for BNSF between Seattle and Chicago, IL. According to BNSF, up to 50 trains travel across both crossings on a daily basis, at speeds up to 79 miles per hour. Both freight and passenger (AMTRAK) trains utilize the tracks. A BNSF yard is located about one mile west of the crossing and activities at the yard increase the amount of time that the crossing gates are down. Trains are often moving slower than normal at the crossing because they are either slowly speeding up as they leave the yard and or slowing down as they enter the yard.*

*Vista Road at the crossings is a paved collector arterial with one northbound lane and one southbound lane that carries approximately 2,400 vehicles per day. Trent Avenue (SR290) is located directly north of the crossings and parallel to the railroad tracks. It carries approximately 20,000 to 23,000 vehicles per day.*

*School buses frequently use the crossings while serving the West Valley School District. West Valley High School is located ¼ mile north of the crossings on Vista Rd.*

*Vista Road does not have a center median, curbs or channelization at the crossings to prevent drivers from crossing in the opposing travel lane to drive around a closed gate.*

*BNSF crews have reported six incidents in the past five years of close calls and motorists driving around the crossing gates. This is extremely risky behavior that can easily lead to a fatal vehicle-train collision. The frequent delays at the crossings contribute to driver frustration and impatience and increase the likelihood of this risky behavior.*

*While there have not been any recent accidents, there have been 3 recorded accidents at the crossings including a fatality reported in 1981. The specific circumstances of each accident were not clear in the accident reports but were related to drivers not stopping.*

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 proposed project would install a median barrier along the centerline of Vista Road where it intersects the BNSF rail lines on each side of the crossings to prevent vehicles from driving around the closed gates. The barrier would be composed of a raised concrete traffic curb with delineators. The curb would extend approximately 100 -feet south of the crossing gates, 100-ft between the crossings (with a 12-ft gap for BNSF maintenance personnel access) and 100-ft north of the crossing gates.*

GCPF Application Form – Open Call for Projects

3. A list of 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).

*BNSF Railway Co.  
Richard Wagner  
2454 Occidental Ave. S.  
Seattle, WA 98134  
206-625-6152*

*Washington State Department of Transportation  
Eastern Regional Office  
Highways & Locals Programs  
2714 N. Mayfair St.  
Spokane, WA 99207  
509-324-6000*

4. A cost estimate, including:
  - a. An itemized list of the total costs of the project.

*The estimated cost to prepare the necessary construction documents, coordinate with the railroad and construct the project, including traffic control and construction management and observation is approximately \$51,000. A detailed cost estimate has been attached for supporting documentation.*

*The City does not have in-house staff capable of constructing the proposed safety improvements. The City contracts with a private contractor for most its street maintenance and has limited in-house maintenance personnel. This project will be contracted out to a private contractor to perform the work. Additional costs have been included in the cost estimate for preparing design and contract documents to bid the construction work, inspection of the construction for compliance with the contract documents and administration of the construction contract.*

- b. Names of parties contributing to the project, including the applicant, and the amount each is contributing.

*The City of Spokane Valley is the lead agency for this project. BNSF will not be contributing funds. Because there are two distinct public crossings located within 100 feet of each other on Vista Road, the City is requesting \$40,000 for this GCPF grant. It is the City's understanding that typically up to \$20,000 may be awarded per public crossing. Any costs in excess of the available grant amount will be covered with City funds.*

GCPF Application Form – Open Call for Projects

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

*Long term maintenance costs attributed to the proposed improvements are expected to be minimal and rolled into the routine street maintenance costs. The only potential costs are for periodic replacement of damaged delineators mounted on the top of the barrier curb.*

6. An estimated timeline of the project.

*The median barrier will be constructed within 12 months of receiving the grant funds.*

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

*The project's success will be measured in the prevention of vehicle/train accidents caused by drivers disregarding the crossing gates. While these accidents are rare, they have a very high potential for fatalities.*

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

*The Vista Rd. crossings are proposed for closing as part of the Bridging the Valley program. This project is not funded and a timeframe for funding is unknown. In discussions with WUTC and BNSF on a previous rail crossing safety project, it was agreed that safety improvements should not be delayed due to the potential closing planned in the future.*

**Railroad Commitment**

If the applicant is not the railroad owning the crossing or the tracks, the applicant must submit the attached Railroad Commitment form completed by the railroad owning the crossing or tracks.

**Submitting the Application**

After completing the application, please send the original to:

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
Attention: Grade Crossing Protective Fund  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW  
PO Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

A signed application may be filed electronically at [records@utc.wa.gov](mailto:records@utc.wa.gov). When filing electronically, please specify “Grade Crossing Protective Fund” in the subject line.

**Assistance**

For questions or assistance, please contact:

- Kathy Hunter at (360)664-1257 or by email at [khunter@utc.wa.gov](mailto:khunter@utc.wa.gov)
- David Pratt at (360)664-1100 or by email at [dpratt@utc.wa.gov](mailto:dpratt@utc.wa.gov)

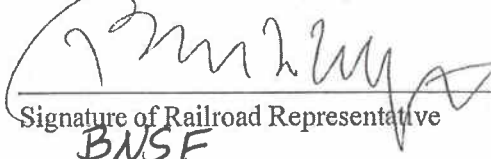
**Railroad Commitment**

The undersigned represents the Railroad Company in the accompanying GCPF application.

We have reviewed the application and are satisfied that 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.

Richard W Wagner

Printed name of Railroad Representative



Signature of Railroad Representative

BNSF

Mgr Public Projects NW Division

Title

206.625.6152

Phone

Richard.Wagner@BNSF.com

Email

Date: 08.14.2013

**Railroad Commitment**

The undersigned represents the Railroad Company in the accompanying GCPF application.

We have reviewed the application and are satisfied that 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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name of Railroad Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Railroad Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

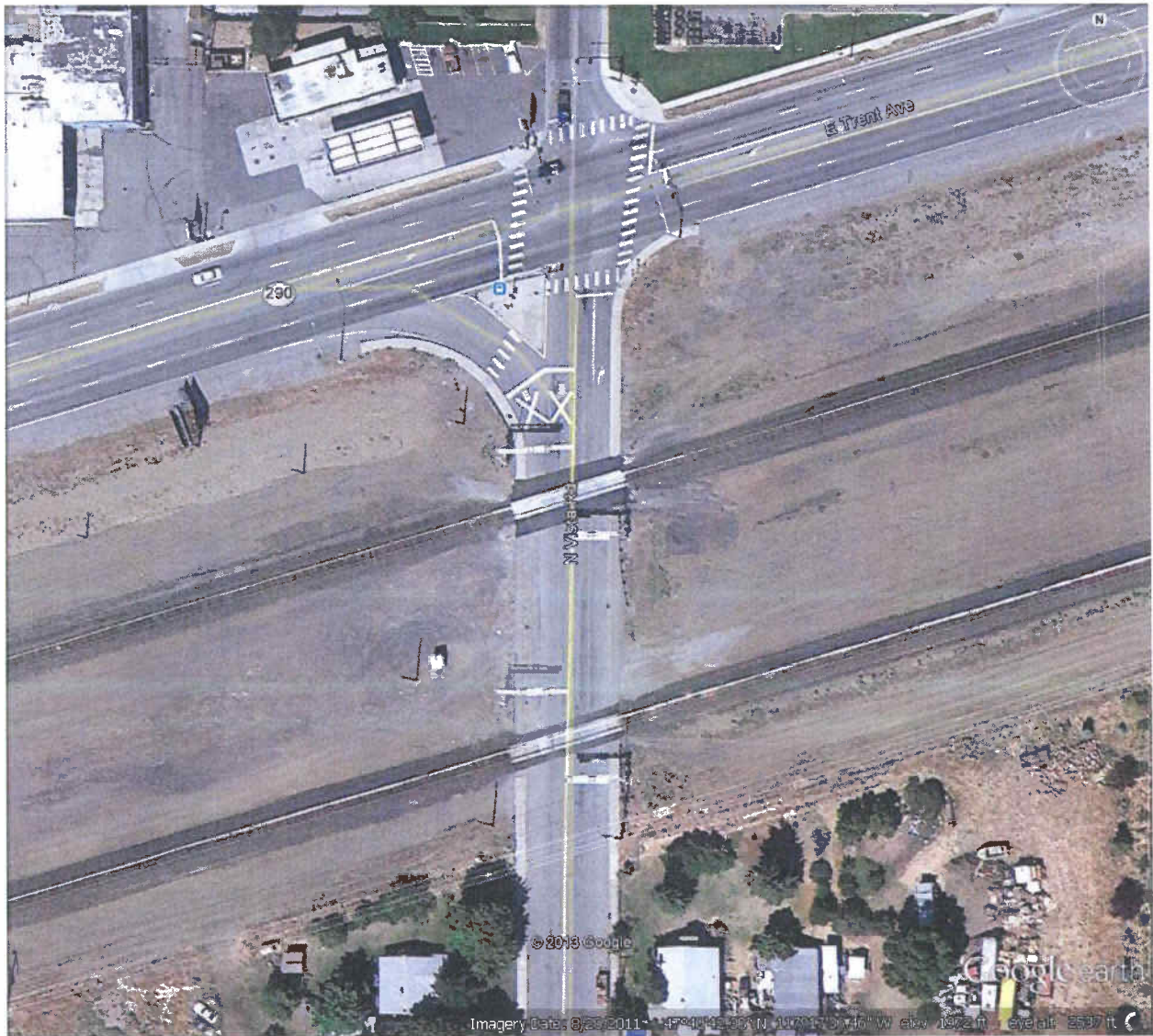
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Concrete Median Example (Park Rd./BNSF Railroad Crossing)





Vista Rd/BNSF Railroad Crossing Aerial



## Grant Application Cost Estimate

Project Name: Vista Road RR Crossing Safety Improvements



Prepared By: Bryan D. Hicks, P.E.  
Preparation Date: May 29, 2013

| ITEM # | WSDOT STD. SPEC. | WSDOT STD. # | ITEM DESCRIPTION                     | UNIT OF MEASURE | PLANNED QUANTITY | ESTIMATED UNIT PRICE | ESTIMATED ITEM PRICE |
|--------|------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1      | 1-09.7           | 0001         | MOBILIZATION                         | L.S.            | 1                | \$ 5,800.00          | \$ 5,800             |
| 3      | 1-10.3           | 6971         | PROJECT TEMPORARY TRAFFIC CONTROL    | L.S.            | 1                | \$ 3,500.00          | \$ 3,500             |
| 4      | 8-04             | 6701         | CEMENT CONC. MEDIAN CURB, 12-IN WIDE | L.F.            | 300              | \$ 40.00             | \$ 12,000            |
| 5      | 8-23             |              | TRAFFIC DELINEATORS & CORE HOLES     | EACH            | 30               | \$ 150.00            | \$ 4,500             |
| 6      | 8-23             |              | BULLNOSE MARKER                      | EACH            | 8                | \$ 400.00            | \$ 3,200             |
| 7      |                  |              | PERMANENT SIGNAGE                    | LS              | 1                | \$ 500.00            | \$ 500               |
|        |                  |              | <b>TOTAL CONSTRUCTION ESTIMATE</b>   |                 |                  |                      | <b>\$ 29,000</b>     |

**Contingency (25%)** \$ 7,250  
 - (Allowance for variation in market conditions for bid prices due to small project size and no economics of scale)

**Construction Sub-Total** \$ 36,250

**Preliminary Engineering & Design (20%)** \$ 7,250  
 - (Preparation of Contract Documents to Bid project)

**Construction Engineering & Management (20%)** \$ 7,250  
 - (Inspection and Management of Construction Contractor)

**Right Of Way** \$ -

**TOTAL PROJECT ESTIMATE** \$ 50,750



**Washington State  
Department of Transportation**

Lynn Peterson  
Secretary of Transportation

Eastern Region  
2714 N. Mayfair Street  
Spokane, WA 99207-2090  
509-324-6000 / FAX: 509-324-6005  
TTY: 1-800-833-6388  
[www.wsdot.wa.gov](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov)

August 20th, 2013

Bryan Hicks  
Century West Engineering  
City of The Spokane Valley

RE: City of the Spokane Valley – 2013 GCPF Application – Vista Road Railroad crossings.

Dear Bryan,

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Eastern Region concurs with this project.

The project adjacent to SR 290 shall meet current WSDOT ADA requirements. If the project proposes to impact the geometrics of any intersection with the SR 290 (for example adding pedestrian bulb outs, changing corner radii, changing lane configuration, etc) you will need design approval and an intersection plan approval from WSDOT. The paving depths, surfacing, and any associated saw cuts as this project connects to SR 290 will require approval of the WSDOT Eastern Region Materials Engineer prior to advertisement. Also, any construction traffic control impacting SR 290 will require pre-approval from the WSDOT Eastern Region Traffic Engineer.

As this project moves forward I encourage you to contact Ken Olson at 509-324-6100. Ken will be able to assist you in coordinating WSDOT reviews and approvals that may be required including WSDOT concurrence to advertise for construction.

We concur with the project as presented and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Michael Gribner, PE  
Assistant Regional Administrator for Construction  
Assistant Regional Administrator for Development(acting)  
WSDOT, Eastern Region  
509-324-6021



Public Works Department  
Capital Improvement Program

11707 E Sprague Ave Suite 106 ♦ Spokane Valley WA 99206  
509.921.1000 ♦ Fax: 509.921.1008 ♦ cityhall@spokanevalley.org

August 7, 2013

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
Attention: Grade Crossing Protective Fund  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW  
PO Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

RECEIVED  
AUG 12 2013  
WASH. UT. & TP. COMM

**RE: 2013 GCPF Application**

Dear Kathy:

Please find enclosed the City of Spokane Valley's application for the Grade Crossing Protective Fund. The application submitted includes the following:

**Vista Road Railroad Crossings**  
USDOT #066375W – Vista Road  
USDOT #066376D – Vista Road

Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

  
Steve M. Worley, PE  
Senior Capital Projects Engineer

cc: Enclosures – as listed above