



UTC
 Washington Utilities
 and Transportation
 Commission

621 Woodland Square Loop SE
 Lacey, WA 98503 Drive SW
 PO Box 47250
 Olympia, WA 98504-7250
 (360) 664-1119 or (360) 664-1262

Web: www.utc.wa.gov

**GRADE CROSSING PROTECTIVE FUND
 2019 – 2021 GRANT APPLICATION
 OPEN CALL FOR PROJECTS**

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC), 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 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 UTC. If you are proposing a change to the warning devices at a public railroad crossing, complete the GCPF petition form.

Please be sure to complete the entire form. Incomplete or missing information will delay the grant review process.

Applicant Information

Applicant Name: Ronald W. Rose
 Signature: *Ronald W. Rose*
 Organization: BNSF Railway
 Address: 1515 W. 39th Street Vancouver, Washington 98660
 Phone: 360-418-6393
 Email: Ronald.rose@bnsf.com

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.

Attempting to address a chronic pedestrian trespass area located on BNSF Mainline tracks in the Kelso Washington area, Seattle Subdivision, approximate milepost 96 to 96.7. This is an area with a paved walking path and the Cowlitz River on the west side of the mainline tracks and residences on the east side of the tracks. There are two grade crossings in the area, with the closest one being approximately 2000 feet to the north, the other approximately 1.5 miles south. Trespassers choose to walk straight across the tracks to access the walking path rather than walk to the nearest grade crossing. There is a six foot cyclone fence along the track edge (east edge) of the walking path. The fence belongs to the City of Kelso. There are numerous holes in the fence which allow easy access to the walking path (see attached PowerPoint presentation). The pathways to these holes in the fence are evidence of the regular pedestrian traffic that use them. Although there have been few actual trespass strike or near miss incidents, the potential is always there, especially with 10 Amtrak trains daily running through this area.

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 intent of this grant request, and matching funds from BNSF Railway, is to address the biggest problem areas evidenced by the holes in the existing fencing. There is approximately 2800 feet of fencing that needs to be replaced with cut-resistant fencing. The cost of that heavier fencing material is approximately \$32.50 foot, including installation. A budget of \$40,000 (\$20,000 from WUTC, \$20,000 matching from BNSF Railway) will replace 1230 feet of the existing fencing with the high traffic areas being the priority which will also repair all the current compromises in the existing fencing. The City of Kelso has made a commitment to maintaining the upgraded sections of fencing, as well as existing regular cyclone fencing as trespassers move to those areas that can be more easily cut. Additional No Trespassing signage will be posted all along this portion of the BNSF Mainline tracks. Continued emphasis will be made in the area by BNSF Railway Police to enforce no trespassing laws. The plan is to apply for this grant in two more years and replace another large section of the fencing if this portion of the project proves effective in lowering the incidents of the fence being cut and thus trespasser activity.

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 will match up to \$20,000. Megan McIntyre, Assistant Director Public Projects, 206-625-6413. The City of Kelso Washington has committed to maintaining the remaining cyclone fencing. Randy Johnson, Superintendent, Kelso Public Works, 360-423-5730.

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

Cost for the heavier fencing material is \$32.50 per linear foot. Considering a fund total of \$40,000 (\$20,000 WUTC, \$20,000 BNSF Railway), a total of 1230 feet of fencing will be repaired/replaced. As mentioned above, BNSF Railway will be matching the funds received via this grant request up to \$20,000. The City of Kelso has committed to maintaining the remaining sections of cyclone fencing.

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

City of Kelso Washington

6. An estimated timeline of the project.

Once funds are secured and agreement signed with the installing entity, material will be ordered and take 2-4 weeks to arrive. Once the material is in hand, it would depend on the company's schedule but likely the project would be started within a few weeks. Once started, they would remain on the project until completed, estimated at less than a week.

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

Success would be determined by the observed lowering of pedestrian (trespasser) traffic evidenced by the fewer numbers or elimination of voids in the current barrier (fence) between the BNSF Mainline tracks and the walking path / Cowlitz River. As these incidents are lowered so are the likelihood of trespass strikes.

8. A description of the applicant's experience in grant management or completing grant projects of this nature, including years of experience, types of projects completed and project cost/scope.

No experience in projects of this nature. In the past I wrote a grant request to the State of Washington for equipment specific to the police job description at the time. The grant was approved and required annual updates for three years outlining how the equipment was being utilized. I met the documentation requirements without incident.

9. Any other information the applicant believes would be useful to the UTC in evaluating the project.

I have been with BNSF Police for 8 years. This area has been a problem area the entire time I have been here. This is an opportunity to start the process of remediating the

issue and ultimately saving lives. If one life is saved it is worth whatever expense or effort was made.

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 and signed 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
621 Woodland Square Loop SE
Lacey, WA 98503
PO Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

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

Assistance

For questions or assistance, please contact:

- Mike Turcott at (360) 664-1119 or mike.turcott@utc.wa.gov
- Lori Halstead at (360) 664-1262 or lori.halstead@utc.wa.gov

City of Kelso Commitment

The undersigned represents the City of Kelso 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 city right-of-way as described in the application.

ANDREW D. HAMILTON

Printed name of City of Kelso Representative

Andrew D. Hamilton

Signature of City of Kelso Representative

CITY MANAGER

Title

City of Kelso
203 S Pacific
PO Box 819
Kelso, WA 98626

360-577-3300

Telephone Number

ANDREW.H@KELSO.GOV

Email

Date:

5/19/2020