

GRADE CROSSING PROTECTIVE FUND
2023 – 2025 GRANT APPLICATION
OPEN CALL FOR PROJECTS

Received
Records Management
Dec 9, 2024

Applicant Information:

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BNSF Railway Police

1800 North Dickey Road. Spokane Valley, WA 99212

509-944-6034, 509-536-2220

1. Project Location:

This petitioning is for three (3) supporting fencing projects, within the same immediate vicinity of each other, to be installed at or around the BNSF right-of-way in Spokane, WA. on the Lakeside Subdivision, MP 1.3, commonly known as “Sunset Junction”. Approximated addresses for the three fence installation sites would be located nearest to the 2000 block of West 6th Court, the intersection of South Cannon and West 5th Ave, and near the 2100 block of Sunset Blvd. between the Interstate-90 and BNSF “Latah” bridges. GPS coordinates are provided on the original grant application form.

2. The BNSF right-of-way, located at MP 1.3 on the Lakeside subdivision which includes the Spokane Subdivision, MP 72-73, is host to continual counts of trespassers, and trespass-related injury/fatalities.

- a. Initial counts of trespassers who were stopped, warned, and removed solely by BNSF Railway Police between 2015 and 2024 YTD are *estimated* to exceed 366.
- b. Trespass-related injuries or fatalities occurring between 2015 and 2024 stand at or exceed 10 incidences, with the most recent occurring on November 24th, 2024.
- c. At least 13 counts of vandalism, thefts, or damages have occurred in the same geographic vicinity between 2015 and 2024.
- d. The data above was sourced directly from the BNSF Police report database.
- e. Additional trespass figures/calls of service which were handled by members of the Spokane Police and Spokane Fire Dept. are equally as substantial, but largely unknown due to limitations with public data sharing.
- f. With the establishment of the Cannon Warming Shelter, (527 S. Cannon St. Spokane, WA), and the continual presence of homeless or displaced persons in the vicinity of the “Sunset Junction” right-of-way, annual numbers of trespass incidences doubled, then tripled during peak COVID years and while the shelter was in operation. The Cannon Warming Shelter closed temporarily for 2023/2024, and trespass-related “contacts” by BNSF Police all but stopped. As of October 2024, the Cannon Street Warming Shelter is again operational, with two reported trespass-related injuries/fatalities reported between October and November 2024.

- g. The BNSF Police team alone has accrued more than 1,830 minutes, or 30.5 hours, in the identification and removal of illegal trespassers in the proposed project area. (Average of 5 minutes per contact, and 366 estimated contacts between 2015 and 2024 YTD).
 - h. A trespass fatality, subsequent investigation, train delays, and crew replacements take approximately 2-4 hours to complete. The 10 reported trespass injury/fatalities occurring between 2015 and 2024, at 2 hours per incident response, equate to 20 hours of train delays, and time spent by emergency responders at Sunset Junction/East Empire.
- 3. The installation of three fence barriers will seek to eliminate all unwarranted access to the BNSF right-of-way near the commonly known “Sunset Junction” and generally surrounding the “East Empire” signal bungalow areas. Fencing of the identified locations will aid in preventing trespassers from utilizing the BNSF right-of-way for sleeping upon, defecating/urinating on, conducting criminal activities, vandalism, and illegal narcotic usage which more times than not leads to the trespass related calls of service, injuries/fatalities and or train delays. The addition of fencing barriers will serve to redirect persons illegally trespassing, or those with criminal intent, back to the Spokane city rights-of-way designed for public usage. Fencing of the identified areas will also serve to cease or minimize pedestrian traffic from trespassing across the BNSF rail bridge which spans Interstate 90 and serves as an unauthorized viaduct connecting the lower regions of Spokane’s Cliff-Cannon district to that of Spokane’s Browne’s Addition district, both of what are subject to higher rates of poverty, homelessness, and continual criminal activities.
- 4. The overall gain to public safety will be immediately recognizable with the prevention of intentional/unintentional access to the BNSF right-of-way near South Cannon St, West 6th Court, and from along the Sunset Blvd areas in which the railroad tracks parallel. Unauthorized vehicle access will cease, and only be available to railroad employees via locked gates. Homeless individuals, others camping or residing in vehicles, or those generally displaced and who might be residing along West 6th Court near the Cannon Street Warming Shelter will be prevented from trespassing and/or conducting criminal activity on BNSF Railway property due to barriers in the form of heavy 9 gauge extruded chain link fencing.
 - a. Fencing of the identified region and minimizing or ceasing all trespass-related occurrences can successfully be measured by the lack of needed presence which members of the BNSF Police, Spokane Police, Spokane Fire, and EMT must maintain. Metrics indicating the last of trespass related calls and incidents can further be provided by BNSF Railway Police and data derived from the City of Spokane via FOIA requests.
 - b. The combined number of trespass incidences, vandalism, and reported injury/fatalities, occurring between 2015 and 2015 equates to 389 calls of service by BNSF Railway Police alone, or one event every 8.4 days for a continual period of nine years. A successful application of fencing and barriers will be reflected in lower frequency ratios and lower overall numbers of incidences and accidents.
- 5. The project will work with railroad coordination as it lies completely upon BNSF Railway property. BNSF Railway Police will work to identify the problematic areas targeted for

fencing, BNSF Maintenance of Way (MOW) is in charge of property management and upkeep, and BNSF Bridge and Building (B&B) for installation of the entire fencing project and future upkeep.

BNSF Railroad Police: 1-800-832-5452

BNSF Bridge and Building Dept (B&B): 509-536-2309

BNSF Maintenance of Way Supervisor (MOW): 509-536-2317.

6. Spokane's Browne's Addition and Cliff-Cannon districts are impoverished and are subject to high rates of continual and various forms of crime, poverty, and homelessness.
 - a. Cliff Cannon district is comprised of high-density homes and multi-family dwellings, with rent rates lower than 73% of other similar neighborhoods across Washington State. Browne's Addition housing is similar with rent rates 97% lower in price as compared to other similar neighborhoods across Washington State.
 - b. A large occurrence of criminal activities occurs in the two impoverished districts, including aggravated assaults, residential burglaries, and vehicle prowls and thefts.
 - c. A main corridor in which persons with nefarious or criminal intent may utilize is the BNSF right-of-way which bisects the districts east and west and connects the districts north and south.
 - d. The Cannon Street Warming Shelter operates on a 24/7 basis and provides shelter, shower facilities, and community services at no cost. The shelter, directly adjacent to the BNSF right-of-way can host nearly 100 homeless individuals inside, most of who roam the immediately surrounding streets and properties during the daylight hours, specifically those properties belonging to BNSF Railway.
7. Project Budget
 - a. Cost estimates of parts included in the attachments.
 - b. Quoted cost of parts is \$19,450.29, with a total grant request of \$20,000.00
 - c. No additional parties or contributors.
8. BNSF Railway will be solely responsible for upkeep and maintenance.
9. The estimated timeline for completion should be no later than June 2025, as environmental conditions may prevent immediate installation. Delaying factors will be railroad priority projects and upkeep, which are needed to be completed by BNSF B&B/MOW.
10. The project's success should be immediately recognizable through less unregulated access to the BNSF right-of-way resulting in less trespass related incidences, less criminal activity, and fewer injury/fatalities occurring on the Spokane Subdivision between MP 72.5 and 73.0 and the Lakeside Subdivision between MP 1.0 and 1.56.
11. The applicant has zero grant writing experience. The applicant is an 18-year veteran of the BNSF Railway Police team in Spokane, WA., a BNSF representative to the WA State OLI program, and an ongoing participant of the BNSF Railways Project Safe Distance program.

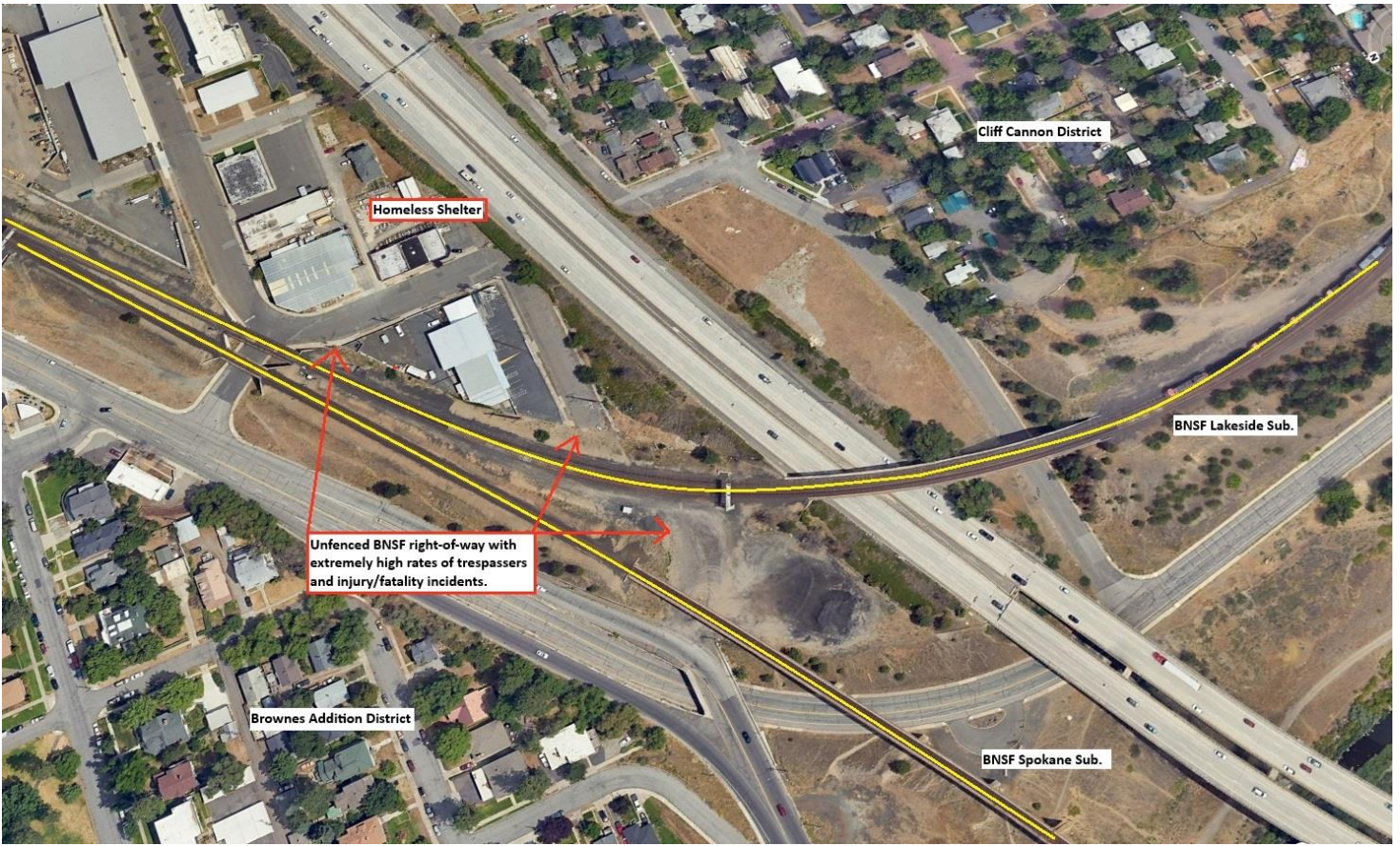
12. All estimates, forms, photos, and documents are attached.

13. I hereby affirm that, to the best of my knowledge, the information provided in this application is true and accurate.

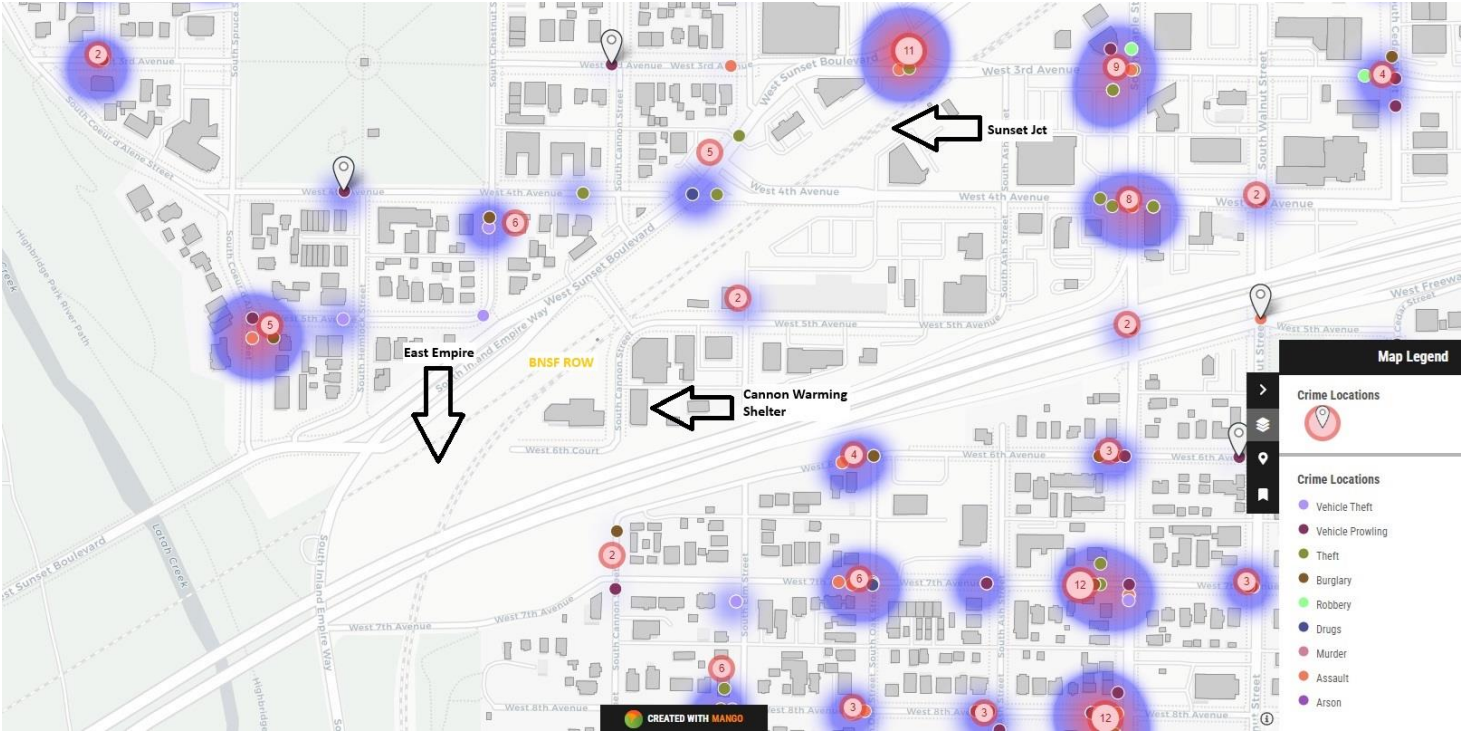
Daniel J. Mattson, Senior Special Agent, BNSF Railway Police. 509-536-2220

BNSF right-of-way between Sunset Jct. and East Empire, Spokane, WA.





Crime Statistics for the Browne's Addition/Cliff-Cannon Districts.



Proposed fence installation locations between Sunset Jct. and East Empire. Spokane, WA





Proposed fence location at West 6th Court, directly east from the Cannon Warming Shelter, preventing trespass access to the East Empire siding area.

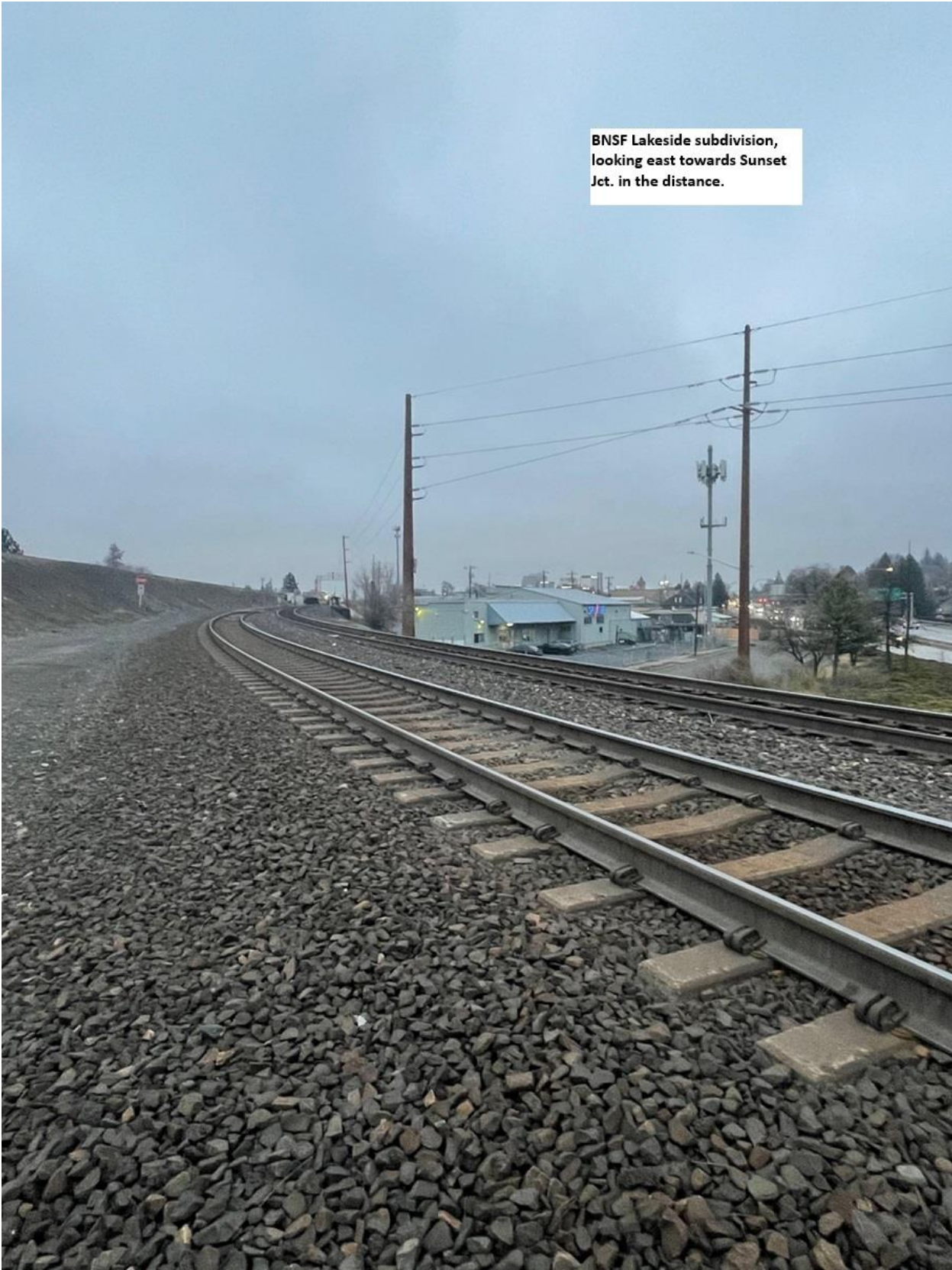


BNSF East Empire siding, and the I-90 railroad overpass. SW facing direction, facing down the Lakeside Subdivision.



View from the BNSF Lakeside right-of-way, looking east towards the Cannon Warming Shelter, located at the end of the block. No fencing exists to prevent trespassing or unauthorized access to the railroad right-of-way.

**BNSF Lakeside subdivision,
looking east towards Sunset
Jct. in the distance.**



BNSF reported trespass related injury/fatalities occurring between 2018-2024 within the Sunset Jct./East Empire areas of the BNSF right-of-way.

December 25, 2018	9:24:49 PM	Spokane	WA	Spokane	72.6	45	Sunset Jct
November 1, 2020	8:29:21 PM	Spokane	WA	Lakeside	1.34	46	Empire East
October 23, 2021	10:19:37 PM	Spokane	WA	Spokane	72.6	45	Sunset Jct
July 4, 2022	9:44:26 PM	Spokane	WA	Spokane	72.576	45	065960F
January 5, 2023	9:10:20 AM	Spokane	WA	Spokane	72.6	45	Sunset Jct
July 13, 2023	4:48:08 PM	Spokane	WA	Spokane	72.6	45	Sunset Jct
April 19, 2024	12:13:18 PM	Spokane	WA	Lakeside	1.34	46	Empire East
July 6, 2024	2:49:43 AM	Spokane	WA	Spokane	72.03	45	065953V
October 13, 2024	6:23:41 PM	Spokane	WA	Spokane	72.822	45	065962U
November 24, 2024	10:00:28 AM	Spokane	WA	Spokane	72.6	45	Sunset Jct

Documented accounts of trespass related contacts by BNSF Railway Police between 2015 and 2024

Year	Sub	MP	FIR	Fat/Inj.	Theft/Damage
2015-2021	Lakeside	1.0-1.5	84	1	0
2022			19		
2023			9		
2024			6	1	0
2015-2018	Spokane	72-73	29	3	3
2019			20		
2020			41		
2021			64		3
2022			67	0	3
2023			20	3	3
2024			7	2	1
Total			366	10	13