

[Service Date December 12, 2003]

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**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY FOR GRANT MONIES FROM THE
GRADE CROSSING PROTECTIVE FUND
(Tuesday, February 17, 2004)**

RE: Grade Crossing Protective Fund Call for Projects
Docket No. TR-031384

TO INTERESTED PERSONS:

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is seeking applications to fund projects that will eliminate or mitigate public safety hazards at railroad crossings and along railroad rights-of-way in Washington State. Funding for such projects is available through the Commission's Grade Crossing Protective Fund (GCPF) pursuant to RCW 81.53.271 and 81.53.281.

In general, proposals should be related to one of the following four categories:

- **Public grade crossing safety improvements.** Grants for improvements to warning devices at public grade crossings must be requested via the Commission's petition process pursuant to RCW 81.53.261. Contact Ahmer Nizam at (360) 664-1345 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; channeling devices; media/public relations campaigns; and enforcement-related activities.
- **Private grade crossing safety improvements.** Examples of projects in this category include private crossing closures; installation of private crossing-

specific warning devices; installation of nighttime/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.

Applications are available at the Commission's website at www.wutc.wa.gov.GCPFgrants. Interested parties may either download applications and file them by regular mail or file them electronically at railinfo@wutc.wa.gov.

Applications must be received by **February 17, 2004** to be considered for funding. After this date, 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.

Funding Restrictions

Grants from the Commission's Grade Crossing Protective Fund may cover up to \$20,000 of a selected project's costs without a cost-share/match requirement. Project costs in excess of \$20,000 will be allocated as follows:

- Sixty percent to the grade crossing protective fund;
- Thirty percent to the city, town, county, or state; and
- Ten percent to the railroad.

The Commission may, however, limit the amount of funding per project so that an optimal number of projects may be funded with regard to relative safety benefits and project costs. The Commission will also consider funding larger safety projects for which the GCPF grant would constitute some portion of the total cost.

Further information about the Grade Crossing Protective Fund may be obtained on the Commission's website at [www.wutc.wa.gov.GCPFgrants](http://www.wutc.wa.gov/GCPFgrants), or by contacting Ahmer Nizam at (360) 664-1345 or Sally Turnbull at (360) 664-1230.

Sincerely,

CAROLE J. WASHBURN
Executive Secretary