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Grade Crossing Protection Fund APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

The Commission's objectives in distributing monies from its Grade Crossing Protective Fund (GCPF) are as follows: To reduce accident/incident frequency and severity at both public and private railroad crossings; and to reduce pedestrian trespassing and the frequency of trespass-related deaths and injuries along railroad rights-of-way. Any public, private, or nonprofit entity may submit an application to the Commission for GCPF monies.

The focus of the GCPF program is to fund projects that demonstrate a need for improved public safety related to one of the following four categories:

- **Grade crossing safety projects.** Grants for improvements to warning devices at public grade crossings must be requested through the commission's petition process pursuant to RCW 81.53.261. Contact Kathy Hunter at (360) 664-1257 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; establishing new public grade crossings; installing channeling devices; media/public relations campaigns; and enforcement-related activities.
- **Private crossing safety improvements.** Examples of projects in this category include private crossing closures; installation of private crossing-specific warning devices; installation of nighttime or 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.

Applicant Name: Tiffin Goodman

Organization: City of Auburn

Address: 25 West Main Street

Auburn, WA 98001

Office Phone: 253-804-5040

E-mail: tgoodman@auburnwa.gov

Cell Phone: _____

Fax Number: 253-931-3053

Type of Application: Fencing

Private crossing safety improvement

Trespass prevention

Miscellaneous

Please list all of the other companies (e.g., railroad companies) organizations, or state or local agencies that may be involved in implementing this proposal and the name, address and phone number of each.

BNSF
John Li
Manager of Public Projects
2454 Occidental Ave. So., Bldg. 1A
Seattle, WA 98134-1451
Tel: (206) 625-6146

The City has discussed the project with John Li. BNSF is in support of the project, as well as granting the City an easement to install the fence.

Note: Requests for public grade crossing safety projects will be continue to be processed through the Commission's regular petition process.

Project Information – Please attach additional information if needed.

- 1) *Provide a detailed summary of the hazard being addressed, including any accident/incident Information or other supporting data. If filing this application electronically, photographs, drawings, or other optional materials that are not in electronic format may be sent to the mailing address specified in the "instructions" section and should be clearly identified as an attachment to your application:*

The BNSF railroad right-of-way is unprotected on the east side of the tracks, north of West Main Street for a distance of 250 feet. The gap leaves a significant opening along an obvious pedestrian desire line. Pedestrians frequently cut across the tracks north of the legal crossing at West Main Street, especially when the crossing arms are down and pedestrians perceive there to be enough time to cross the tracks before the train passes. In addition, City staff have witnessed pedestrians climbing over a train to cross the tracks at this location while a train is temporary stopped. A fence would function as a deterrent to this type of behavior.

The BNSF Railway runs through the middle of downtown Auburn. Most of the commercial activities and the hospital are to the east of the tracks, while housing, a high school, and recreational uses are located to the west. Students at West Auburn High School, located 2 blocks west of the tracks, regularly walk back and forth between the school and the commercial portion of downtown Auburn, often crossing the tracks illegally in large groups while paying little attention to their surroundings. The Interurban Trail, a significant recreational destination is less than a half mile west of the tracks. Walkers and runners often run across the tracks north of the West Main Street crossing to cut the corner or circumnavigate lowered crossing arms.

On April 4, 2006, there was a pedestrian fatality, ruled to be a suicide, on the BNSF Railway just north of West Main Street. The proposed fencing would protect the area where this occurred.

- 2) *Provide a detailed description of your proposed project and explain how its implementation will eliminate or mitigate the hazard. If available, please attach any drawings or construction plans for your proposed project (see section 1 if filing electronically):*

The City of Auburn is proposing to install a 6 ft. chain linked fence on the east side of the tracks from West Main Street to approximately 250 feet north. The fence would end after the building to the north, which functions as a barrier similarly to the fence. This project would make it extremely difficult and eliminate the temptation to cross the tracks illegally. BNSF has expressed support for this project, and city staff is currently working with BNSF staff to coordinate this project.

The fence would also eliminate the illegal parking that currently takes place on BNSF ROW.

The attached map and photographs below identify the location of the proposed fencing.



3) Provide cost estimates, including those related to long-term maintenance:

Project Cost/Funding Request

<u>Phase/Description</u>	<u>Project Cost</u>	<u>Grade Crossing Protection Fund Request</u>
Design (<i>Engineering & Construction</i>)	\$1,600	\$1,600
Fence Construction (<i>Chain linked fence, 6 ft. tall, 250 ft. long</i>)	\$7,700	\$7,700
Sales Tax	\$700	\$700
Total	\$ 10,000	\$10,000

** Annual maintenance is minimal and will be performed by the City's Maintenance and Operations division, through their current operations. Maintenance will be funded through the City's annual budget.*

4) Estimated timeline of project, if approved:

The improvement will be made within 6 months of receiving the grant funds.

5) If known, provide a description of how the project's success would be measured:

There is not a quantitative method for measuring the project's success as railroad trespassing is generally unreported and only discovered following an accident. However, the City is certain this improvement will help significantly to prevent trespassing, thereby lowering the likelihood of a pedestrian injury or fatality in the future.

6) Other comments:

For questions or assistance, please contact Mark Halliday at 360-664-1232 (e-mail mhallida@wutc.wa.gov) or Kathy Hunter at 360-664-1257 (email khunter@wutc.wa.gov)

Instructions

After completing the Grade Crossing Protective Fund application, please send the original and two copies to:

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

Applications are available at www.wutc.wa.gov/GCPFgrants, and may be filed electronically at records@wutc.wa.gov. When filing electronically, please specify "Grade Crossing Protective Fund" in the subject line.

Please ensure that the names and addresses of representatives from the relevant railroad company and local jurisdiction are correct and listed in the application.

Funding

RCW 81.53.271 allows the Commission to grant up to twenty thousand dollars for selected projects without requiring a monetary match. The Commission, however, may limit the amount of funding per project to a lesser amount so that an optimal number of projects may be funded with regard to relative safety benefits and project costs. The Commission may also consider funding for larger safety projects for which the GCPF grant would constitute some portion of the total cost.

Selection of Projects

The Commission will initiate a “call for projects,” soliciting applications within a specific timeframe. After the specified submittal deadline, all applications will be reviewed simultaneously. Further information about the Grade Crossing Protective Fund may be obtained on the Commission’s website at www.wutc.wa.gov/GCPFgrants, or by contacting Mark Halliday at (360) 664-1232 or Kathy Hunter at (360) 664-1257.

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. Final award of GCPF grants will be contingent upon the recipient signing an agreement specifying the terms of the grant.