

7/25/2025

Received
Records Management
Jul 25, 2025

Jeff Killip, Executive Director and Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
621 Woodland Square Loop SE
Lacey, WA 98503

Dear Mr. Killip:

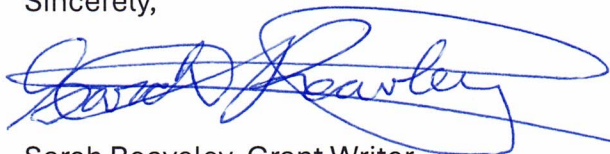
On behalf of the Port of Pend Oreille, I am pleased to submit the Port's application for funding through the Grade Crossing Protective Fund (GCPF) to support the Birdhouse Crossing Improvement Project. This initiative addresses a longstanding safety hazard at a key at-grade crossing along the Pend Oreille Valley Railroad (POVA) in rural Pend Oreille County in Northeast Washington.

The Birdhouse Crossing serves as a vital link for residents, emergency services, freight carriers, and recreational travelers moving between the communities of Newport and Metaline Falls. Years of heavy use and deferred maintenance have led to a significant track dip and degraded crossing panels, posing safety risks for both roadway users and train operations. The proposed improvements will eliminate these hazards through panel replacement, subgrade stabilization, and associated track and roadway tie-in work to enhance the corridor's overall long-term safety, reliability, and performance.

The Port has developed a shovel-ready project with a defined scope of work, engineering estimates, and contractor readiness in place. Construction will occur entirely within the existing transportation footprint, in close coordination with Pend Oreille County and utility providers, and will follow all applicable best management practices. To advance this critical infrastructure investment, the Port respectfully requests \$25,000 in GCPF support from the UTC. The Port will contribute the remaining \$125,000 of the \$150,000 total project cost. This targeted investment will deliver meaningful public safety benefits, reduce long-term maintenance costs, and protect a key piece of rural infrastructure that is essential to the region's mobility and economy.

Thank you for your consideration of this important safety initiative. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (509) 671-5748 or sarahr@povarr.com if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,



Sarah Reaveley, Grant Writer
Port of Pend Oreille – Pend Oreille Valley Railroad (POVA)
1981 Black Road, Usk, WA 99180