

# Public Services

128 North Second Street • Fourth Floor Courthouse • Yakima, Washington 98901  
(509) 574-2300 • 1-800-572-7354 • FAX (509) 574-2301 • [www.co.yakima.wa.us](http://www.co.yakima.wa.us)

VERN M. REDIFER, P.E. - Director

January 17, 2006

Washington Utilities &  
Transportation Commission  
Grade Crossing Protection Fund  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW  
Post Office Box 47250  
Olympia, WA  
98504-7250

Dear GCP Program Coordinator:

Yakima County is pleased to submit its application for the WUTC-Grade Crossing Protection Fund Program.

As Yakima County experiences continued growth on the Toppenish, Simcoe, and Western Rail Line (also known as the White Swan Branch Line), potential conflicts between train traffic and pedestrians in residential zones along the line become apparent.

The White Swan Trespass Prevention Project will aide in reducing pedestian trespassing incidents along this active rail line and protecting area students in and around the nearby High / Middle School as they travel within their community.

If you have any Questions, please feel free to contact Kent McHenry (Transportation Engineering Manager) or Alan Adolf (Sr. Transportation Planner) at (509) 574-2300.

Sincerely,

Gary N. Ekstedt, P.E.  
County Road Engineer

GE:aa



**MT. ADAMS**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT #209

P.O. Box 578  
White Swan, WA 98952  
Phone: (509) 874-2611  
Fax: (509) 874-2960  
mtadams.wednet.edu

Public Services 

JAN 27 2006

Vern\_\_\_ Gary\_\_\_ Don\_\_\_ Steve\_\_\_  
Bill\_\_\_ Dave\_\_\_ Lisa\_\_\_ Carmen\_\_\_

January 24, 2006

Mr. Gary Ekstedt  
128 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor Courthouse  
Yakima, WA 98901

Dear Mr. Ekstedt:

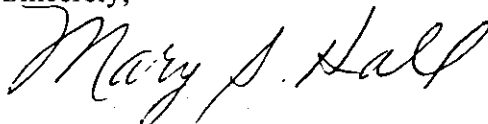
The purpose of this letter is to support the efforts and the purpose of the Washington State UTC Grant to reduce accident/incident frequency and severity at both public and private railroad crossing; and to reduce pedestrian trespassing and the frequency of trespassing related death and injuries along railroad rights-of-way.

One block north running parallel to the White Swan High School and the Mt. Adams Middle School campus is a railroad line. The railroad line carries wood products manufactured by two large industries in White Swan. The industries are Yakama Forest Products and Jeld-Wen. The railroad line is also located across the street from our off-campus portable classroom site.

During the early morning school start time and afternoon dismissal time, there are approximately 150 students that walk across the railroad lines to get to and from school. It has been estimated by our Transportation Director Don Jensen that at least 500 students and community members cross the tracks in a day.

On behalf of the Mt. Adams School District, I support a safety improvement that would protect our community members and students from pedestrian trespassing related deaths and injuries along the railroad right-of-way that is bordering our White Swan campus.

Sincerely,



Mary S. Hall, Ed. D.  
Superintendent



Confederated Tribes and Bands  
of the Yakama Indian Nation

Established by the  
Treaty of June 9, 1855

January 23, 2006

Alan Adolf  
Sr. Project Planner/Transportation Planner  
Yakama County Public Works  
128 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> St.  
Courthouse, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Yakima, WA 98901

Public Services 

JAN 25 2006

Vern \_\_\_ Gary \_\_\_ Don \_\_\_ Steve \_\_\_

Bill \_\_\_ Dave \_\_\_ Lisa \_\_\_ Carmen \_\_\_

Dear Mr. Adolf:

This is the Yakama Nation's Letter of support for the County of Yakima, State of Washington's proposal to install a security fence along the railroad in White Swan, Washington. This fence will be installed between Curtis Road and Signal Peak Road.

White Swan is a basic small community with one store and one school and a rail line in between. The rail line can have approximately twelve (24 trips) trains going to the White Swan lumber mill each day. Students walk to the store at all hours using many different student made crossings.

It is the goal of the Yakama Nation to save student lives. We appreciate the assistance and cooperation Yakama County will provide in accomplishing our goals in optimizing student safety.

Sincerely,



Gordon E. Thomas  
Yakama Nation Transportation Program Manager



Central Washington Railroad

January 10, 2006

Alan Adolf  
Sr. Transportation Planner  
Yakima County Public Services  
128 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Courthouse  
Yakima, WA  
98901

Public Services (M)

JAN 13 2006

Vern \_\_\_ Gary \_\_\_ Don \_\_\_ Steve \_\_\_  
Bill \_\_\_ Dave \_\_\_ Lisa \_\_\_ Carmen \_\_\_

Dear Mr. Adolf:

The Central Washington Railroad Company (CWA) wholeheartedly supports Yakima County's grant application for the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) Grade Crossing Protection Program.

While we have only been operating the line since December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2005, we have employees who operated on the line with the previous operator who observed numerous near-incidents of youth and local residents trespassing on railroad right of way in the residential community of White Swan. Yakima County's efforts to install protective security fencing along this residential zone will serve to improve safety for the residents in the area and protect the railroads property along the project corridor.

The CWA has a strong desire to work collaboratively with Yakima County to improve safety and security along the entire 20-mile rail line and hopes that the WUTC will seriously consider funding your project.

Sincerely,

Nicholas B. Temple, Jr.  
President  
Central Washington Railroad Company