

TR-072333



**Washington State  
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**Paula J. Hammond, P.E.**  
Secretary of Transportation

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PAULA J. HAMMOND, P.E.  
2008 APR -7 PM 2:27  
STATE OF WASH.  
UTIL. AND TRANSP.  
COMMISSION

April 7, 2008

Kathy Hunter  
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
PO Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Re: Request to Expend GCPF Funds at Brace Street in Wilbur, WA

Dear Ms. Hunter:

The Eastern Washington Gateway Railroad (EWG) submitted a petition for a grant from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund (GCPF) to improve the signal equipment and devices at the Brace Street railroad crossing in Wilbur, Washington. The State of Washington owns the railroad line that the EWG operates. The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) manages the State's interests in the line. I act as WSDOT's representative to fulfill that function.

The legislature appropriated funds for WSDOT to rehabilitate the former Palouse River and Coulee City Railroad system. They can be used to rehabilitate the signal at Wilbur Street, including replacing worn or outdated equipment. I understand that the staff at WUTC will recommend that the Commission approve the EWG request for payment of \$20,000 from the GCPF. However, the project is estimated to cost \$35,022.27.

WSDOT will pay up to \$15,022.27 towards completion of the project on the following conditions:

- a. WUTC staff inspection shows that the project was completed according to plans or specifications submitted with the petition, that the signal system operates as intended, that it meets all requirements of the WSDOT for highways, and that it complies with all applicable Federal Railroad Administration regulations.
- b. EWG submits detailed invoices of work performed as required by the WUTC.

- c. WUTC staff approves payment from the GCPF after reviewing the invoices.
- d. WSDOT staff approves the invoices submitted by the EWG to the WUTC.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter, and for your continued efforts to improve railroad safety in the State of Washington.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael E. Rowswell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael E. Rowswell  
Special Initiatives Manager