

TR-080478



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

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April 4, 2008

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

Re: Request to Expend GCPF Funds at Park Street in St. John

Dear Ms. Hunter:

The Palouse River and Coulee City Railroad (PCC) submitted a petition for a grant from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund (GCPF) to install signal equipment at the Park Street railroad crossing in St. John, Washington. The State of Washington owns the railroad line that the PCC 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 wig wag signal at Park Street, including replacing them with more modern equipment. I understand that the staff at WUTC will recommend that the Commission approve the PCC request for payment of \$20,000 from the GCPF. However, the project is estimated to cost \$44,203.17.

WSDOT will pay up to \$24,203.17 towards completion of the project on the following conditions:

- a. The Department of Archeological and Historical Preservations provides no restrictions on performing the work.
- b. 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 city of St. John, and

that it complies with all applicable Federal Railroad Administration regulations.

- c. PCC submits detailed invoices of work performed as required by the WUTC.
- d. WUTC staff approves payment from the GCPF after reviewing the invoices.
- e. WSDOT staff approves the invoices submitted by the PCC 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, appearing to read "Michael E. Rowswell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "M".

Michael E. Rowswell
Special Initiatives Manager