

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Application of

PORT OF CHEHALIS,

Applicant,

Requesting Disbursement from the
Grade Crossing Protective Fund

DOCKET TR-160189

ORDER 01

ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR
DISBURSEMENT FROM THE GRADE
CROSSING PROTECTIVE FUND

BACKGROUND

- 1 On July 15, 2015, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) sent to various interested parties a “Notice of Available Funds for Rail Safety Projects” from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund (GCPF). On February 11, 2016, the Port of Chehalis (Port or Applicant) filed with the Commission an application requesting a disbursement of \$1,252.80 from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund (GCPF) to pay for a project related to crossing safety upgrades.
- 2 The Port seeks to install emergency notification system signs and yield signs at 10 public crossings on its railroad lines in Lewis county. The Chehalis-Centralia Railroad & Museum is the rail operator. Specific information about each crossing is contained in the Port’s GCPF application and in the attached Appendix A.
- 3 Emergency notification system signs are required at each highway-rail or pathway grade crossing and provide a toll-free telephone number and unique location information the public can use to alert railroad companies to unsafe conditions at these crossings. In 2009, the Federal Highway Administration revised its Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) to require either a yield or stop sign on all passively-protected grade crossings by 2019. Yield or stop signs make clear to motorists what is expected of them when approaching a passive crossing.
- 4 The Port seeks \$1,252.80 to pay for the cost of the signs. The Chehalis-Centralia Railroad & Museum and the Port will contribute the labor to install the signs. There currently are funds available to pay for the project.
- 5 The Port must meet the following conditions for administering the GCPF grant.
 - Expenditure from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must not exceed \$1,252.80.

- The work for which the Grade Crossing Protective Fund disbursement was approved must conform to the project description specified in the application.
- The Port must sign and return the attached project agreement.
- Upon completion of the project, the Port must submit photographs of each crossing and complete and sign an affidavit of project completion.
- Payment will be made upon presentation of claim for reimbursement and verification by Commission Staff that the work has been satisfactorily completed.
- The project must be completed and the associated request for reimbursement from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must be filed with the Commission no later than May 31, 2016.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington having authority to approve and administer disbursements from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund. RCW 81.53.271; RCW 81.53.281.
- 7 (2) The project for which the Port seeks disbursement from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund is eligible for funding consideration under Commission rules and complies with the requirements of RCW 81.53.271, RCW 81.53.281, and WAC 480-62.
- 8 (3) Commission Staff investigated the request based on the review criteria specified in the Commission's rules and recommended that it be granted, subject to specified conditions for administering the grant.
- Expenditure from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must not exceed \$1,252.80.
 - The work for which the Grade Crossing Protective Fund disbursement was approved must conform to the project description specified in the application.
 - The Port must sign and return the attached project agreement.
 - Upon completion of the project, the Port must submit photographs of each crossing and complete and sign an affidavit of project completion.

- Payment will be made upon presentation of claim for reimbursement and verification by Commission Staff that the work has been satisfactorily completed.
- The project must be completed and the associated request for reimbursement from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must be filed with the Commission no later than May 31, 2016.

9 (4) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on February 25, 2016.

10 (5) After reviewing the Port's application filed on February 11, 2016, and giving due consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission grants the request for disbursement of funds.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

11 The Port of Chehalis's application for disbursement from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund for crossing safety upgrades on their railroad line in Lewis county is granted, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) Expenditure from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must not exceed \$1,252.80.
- (2) The work for which the Grade Crossing Protective Fund disbursement was approved must conform to the project description specified in the application.
- (3) The Port must sign and return the attached project agreement.
- (4) Upon completion of the project, the Port must submit photographs of each crossing and complete and sign an affidavit of project completion.
- (5) Payment will be made upon presentation of claim for reimbursement and verification by Commission Staff that the work has been satisfactorily completed.
- (6) The project must be completed and the associated request for reimbursement from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must be filed with the Commission no later than May 31, 2016.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective February 25, 2016.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

STEVEN V. KING, Executive Director and Secretary