

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Application of)	DOCKET TR-060142
)	
NORTHWEST RAILWAY)	ORDER 01
MUSEUM, d/b/a/ SNOQUALMIE)	
VALLEY RAILROAD,)	
)	ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR
Petitioner,)	DISBURSEMENT FROM THE GRADE
)	CROSSING PROTECTIVE FUND
Requesting Disbursement from the)	
Grade Crossing Protective Fund)	USDOT: 092023J
)	WUTC: 29A 32.60
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On November 14, 2005, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) sent a “Notice of Opportunity to Apply for Grant Monies from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund” in Docket TR-051633 to various interested parties from the public and private sectors that were eligible to apply for Grade Crossing Protective Fund (GCPF) grants. On January 19, 2006, the Commission issued a notice extending the due date for grant applications to February 17, 2006.
- 2 On January 23, 2006, the Northwest Railway Museum, doing business as the Snoqualmie Valley Railroad (railroad) filed an application with the Commission, requesting a disbursement of \$20,000 from the GCPF to pay for a project related to pedestrian safety.
- 3 The railroad seeks to install an automatic train gate at the Northern Street crossing in Snoqualmie, Washington.
- 4 The Centennial Trail, a public trail in Snoqualmie, parallels the tracks for approximately three quarters of a mile and eventually crosses the tracks at Northern Street. Visitors using the trail often use the railroad tracks as a secondary trail, even though a six-foot chain link fence separates the tracks from the established trail and several no trespassing signs are posted in the area. The railroad tracks consist of one main-line and one siding track. The railroad operates up to 12 sightseeing trains daily on Saturday and Sunday from April to December on these tracks at a speed of 15 miles per hour. In addition, the railroad expands the number of sightseeing trains for seven days in July for a local event. The Commission has no documented pedestrian incidents or fatalities at the tracks or crossing.

5 A recent site visit by Commission Staff confirms the safety problem described by the
railroad and that the proposed automatic train gate at the Northern Street crossing will
limit pedestrian access to the tracks in this area.

6 The railroad estimates the total cost of the gate is \$28,400. The railroad seeks \$20,000
from the Grade Crossing Protection Fund to partially pay for the cost of the automatic
train gate. The railroad will pay the balance of the project, estimated at \$8,400, from its
own funds. There are currently Grade Crossing Protection Fund monies available to pay
\$20,000 toward the cost of the project.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

7 (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. *Chapter 81.53.271 RCW and
81.53.281 RCW.*

8 (2) The project for which disbursement from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund is
sought is eligible for funding consideration under Commission rules and complies
with the requirements of RCW 81.53.271 and RCW 81.53.281.

9 (3) Commission Staff investigated the request based on the review criteria specified
in the rules and recommended that it be granted, subject to specified conditions.

10 (4) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting
on June 28, 2006.

11 (5) After examination of the application filed by the Northwest Railway Museum,
doing business as the Snoqualmie Valley Railroad, on January 23, 2006, and
giving consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the
Commission grants the request for disbursement of funds.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

12 The request of the Northwest Railway Museum, doing business as the Snoqualmie
Valley Railroad, seeking disbursement from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund for the

installation of an automatic train gate at the Northern Street crossing in Snoqualmie, Washington, is granted, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) Expenditure from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must not exceed \$20,000.
- (2) The work for which the Grade Crossing Protective Fund disbursement was approved must conform to the project description specified in the application.
- (3) Payment will be made upon presentation of claim for reimbursement and verification by Commission Staff that the work has been satisfactorily completed.
- (4) The project must be completed and the associated request for reimbursement from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must be on file with the Commission no later than June 30, 2007.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective June 28, 2006.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARK H. SIDRAN, Chairman

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner