

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Application of	DOCKET TR-200831
CHEHALIS-CENTRALIA RAILROAD & MUSEUM,	ORDER 01
Applicant,	GRANTING REQUEST FOR DISBURSEMENT FROM THE GRADE CROSSING PROTECTIVE FUND
Requesting Disbursement from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On August 5, 2019, 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).
- 2 On September 29, 2020, the Chehalis-Centralia Railroad & Museum (Museum or Applicant) filed with the Commission an application (Application) requesting a disbursement of \$178.57 from the GCPF to pay for a project to replace the sign posts and reflective striping at a pedestrian crossing located on the Willapa Hills Trail (USDOT 922998T) and the Museum’s tracks at railroad milepost 1.4 west of Chehalis in Lewis County. Upgrades will bring the crossing into compliance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices requirements for passive crossings and resolve the outstanding Commission defect.
- 3 The total cost of the project is \$178.57. The Museum will provide the labor required for installation.
- 4 Commission staff (Staff) reviewed the Application and recommends the Commission approve funding in the amount of \$178.57. Currently there are funds available to pay for this project.
- 5 Staff recommends the Commission approve the request for funds with the following conditions: (1) expenditure from the GCPF must not exceed \$178.57, (2) the work for which the GCPF disbursement is approved must conform to the project description specified in the Application, (3) Chehalis-Centralia Railroad & Museum must sign and return the attached project agreement, (4) payment will be made upon presentation of

claim for reimbursement and verification by Staff that the work has been satisfactorily completed, and (5) the project must be completed and the associated request for reimbursement from the GCPF must be filed with the Commission no later than December 31, 2020.

DISCUSSION

6 RCW 81.53.281 authorizes the Commission to disburse funds from the GCPF to pay for improvements to rail grade crossings. We find that the proposed modifications will improve the overall safety for trail users. Accordingly, the Commission grants the Application subject to the conditions that Staff recommends.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

7 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington having authority to approve and administer disbursements from the GCPF. RCW 81.53.271; RCW 81.53.281.

8 (2) The project for which Applicant seeks disbursement from the GCPF 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.

9 (3) Staff investigated the request based on the review criteria specified in the Commission's rules and recommended that it be granted with the conditions set out in paragraph 5, above.

10 (4) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on October 15, 2020.

11 (5) After reviewing Chehalis-Centralia Railroad & Museum's Application filed on September 29, 2020, 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:

12 The Chehalis-Centralia Railroad & Museum's Application for disbursement from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund for a project related to the replacing sign posts and

reflective striping at a pedestrian crossing located on the Willapa Hills Trail (USDOT 922998T) and the Museum's tracks west of Chehalis in Lewis County is granted, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) Expenditure from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must not exceed \$178.57.
- (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 Chehalis-Centralia Railroad & Museum must sign and return the attached project agreement.
- (4) Payment will be made upon presentation of claim for reimbursement and verification by Staff that the work has been satisfactorily completed.
- (5) 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 December 31, 2020.

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

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective October 15, 2020.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARK L. JOHNSON
Executive Director and Secretary