

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

In the Matter of the Application of	)	DOCKET TR-061647
	)	
WASHINGTON STATE	)	ORDER 01
DEPARTMENT OF	)	
TRANSPORTATION	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR
Requesting Disbursement from the	)	DISBURSEMENT FROM THE GRADE
Grade Crossing Protective Fund	)	CROSSING PROTECTIVE FUND
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1     On September 1, 2006, 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 eligible to apply for Grade Crossing Protective Fund (GCPF) grants.
- 2     On October 26, 2006, Washington State Department of Transportation (DOT) filed an application with the Commission, requesting a disbursement of \$20,000 from the GCPF to pay for a project related to crossing safety.
- 3     DOT seeks to design a “queue-cutter signal” at the grade crossing on State Route 538 (College Way) and the Urban Avenue intersection in the City of Mount Vernon. The city has analyzed the traffic pattern associated with the College Way grade crossing and determined that significant traffic stopped at the College Way intersection backs up onto the railroad tracks at the grade crossing. BNSF Railway runs 30 freight trains and Amtrak runs four passenger trains over this crossing each day.
- 4     A queue-cutter system would consist of a highway traffic signal placed in advance of the approach to the crossing. It would be connected to an in-road detection system to cycle the traffic signal to red in order to stop traffic in advance of the crossing.
- 5     The total cost of engineering the queue-cutter signal is \$25,000. DOT requested a GCPF grant of \$20,000 to contribute to the costs.

**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. *Chapter 81.53.271 RCW and 81.53.281 RCW.*
- 7 (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.
- 8 (3) Commission staff investigated the request based on the review criteria specified in the rules and recommended that it be granted.
- 9 (4) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on December 13, 2006.
- 10 (5) After examination of the application filed by Washington State Department of Transportation on October 26, 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:

- 11 The request of Washington State Department of Transportation, proposing to engineer a queue-cutter system for the grade crossing on State Route 538 (College Way) and the Urban Avenue intersection in the City of Mount Vernon, 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 for costs incurred and verification by Commission staff that the work has been satisfactorily completed.
- (4) The project must be completed no later than June 30, 2007.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective December 13, 2006.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Executive Secretary