

TR-100201

**WHATCOM COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**



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Frank M. Abart
Director

April 8, 2010

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WASH. UT. & TP. COMM

Ms. Kathy Hunter, Deputy Assistant Director, Transportation Safety
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW
PO Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Subject: Grade Crossing Protective Fund Request for Installation of Median Barriers at the Main Street Crossing in Custer

Dear Ms. Hunter:

When approached on August 14th, 2009 via email by the UTC, a completed analysis of reported dangerous motorist behaviors at public railroad crossings was compiled using data supplied from the BNSF railroad. As stated on the UTC web page for the "Grade Crossing Protective Fund Grants", this fund is available to railroad companies as well as local governments.

After discussion in regards to the subject grade crossing, Whatcom County proposes that a partnership be used to complete the safety improvements. We recommend that BNSF secure (provide) their BNSF permit, and provide the necessary BNSF flagging, and that Whatcom County will apply for the funding as previously submitted, which has Whatcom County incurring the installation and maintenance costs.

If this is agreeable, we ask that the original application be used as submitted, with only the timeline of completion extended to August 31st, 2010.

If agreed and the application approved, we would notify BNSF of the date of installation 2 weeks prior; to allow their scheduling of the BNSF flagger they require being on site.

Sincerely,

Joseph P. Rutan, P.E.
County Engineer/Assistant Director

cc: Mike Donahue
Jim Karcher