

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Application of NORTHWEST RAILWAY MUSEUM, Applicant, Requesting Disbursement from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund	DOCKET TR-190687 ORDER 01 GRANTING REQUEST FOR DISBURSEMENT FROM THE GRADE CROSSING PROTECTIVE FUND USDOT 917624C
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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 August 15, 2019, the Northwest Railway Museum (Museum or Applicant) filed with the Commission an application requesting a disbursement of \$1,540 from the GCPF to pay for a project related to replacing batteries at a trespass abatement gate located west of the Snoqualmie Parkway crossing (USDOT 917624C) in Snoqualmie. The total cost of the project is \$1,760, which includes the Museum’s \$200 contribution toward labor costs.
- 3 The Museum seeks to replace six batteries at the trespass abatement gate that have reached the end of their useful life. The gate is normally in the closed position and opens when a train approaches. When closed, the gate prevents pedestrians from walking down the track to view nearby Snoqualmie Falls. If the gate fails to operate reliably, it could force the Museum to leave the gate in the open position, which increases the possibility of trespassing. Currently there are funds available to pay for this project.
- 4 Commission staff (Staff) recommends the Commission approve the request for funds subject to the following conditions: (1) expenditure from the GCPF must not exceed \$1,540, (2) the work for which the GCPF disbursement is approved must conform to the project description specified in the application, (3) the 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 January 24, 2020.

DISCUSSION

5 As authorized by RCW 81.53, the GCPF provides funding for projects that reduce
accident frequency and severity at public and private railroad crossings, or reduce
pedestrian trespassing, and motorist injuries and deaths on railroad rights-of-way at
6 places other than crossings. We find that the proposed modifications will reduce
pedestrian trespassing.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6 (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.
- 7 (2) The project for which Museum 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.
- 8 (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 4, above.
- 9 (4) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on
October 24, 2019.
- 10 (5) After reviewing the Museum's application filed on August 15, 2019, 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 Northwest Railway Museum's application for disbursement from the Grade Crossing
Protective Fund for a project related to replacing batteries for a trespass abatement gate in
Snoqualmie is GRANTED, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) Expenditure from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must not exceed \$1,540.

- (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 Northwest Railway Museum must sign and return the attached project agreement.
- (4) Payment will be made upon presentation of claim for reimbursement and verification by Commission 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 January 24, 2020.

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 24, 2019.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARK L. JOHNSON
Executive Director and Secretary