

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Application of  TOWN OF INDEX,  Applicant,  Requesting Disbursement from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund	DOCKET TR-190802  ORDER 01  GRANTING REQUEST FOR DISBURSEMENT FROM THE GRADE CROSSING PROTECTIVE FUND  USDOT 084533S
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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 September 24, 2019, the Town of Index (Index or Applicant) filed with the Commission an application requesting a disbursement of \$250 from the GCPF to pay for a project related to replacing three advance warning signs at the Index Avenue crossing (USDOT 084533S) in Index.
- 3 Index seeks to replace three advance warning signs with signs that meet current federal standards: two 36-inch W10-1 advance warning signs on Index Avenue, and one 36-inch W10-4 advance warning sign on Crescent Street, west of the crossing.
- 4 Commission staff (Staff) performed a site visit and confirmed that the safety problem Index describes exists, and that the proposed signage will improve safety at the crossing and comply with the current 2009 Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Device signage standards. 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 \$250, (2) the work for which the GCPF disbursement is approved must conform to the project description specified in the application, (3) Index 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, 2019.

## DISCUSSION

6 As authorized by 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 places other than crossings. We find that the proposed modifications will improve safety at the crossing.

## 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 Index 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 24, 2019.
- 11 (5) After reviewing Index's application filed on September 24, 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:

12 The Town of Index's application for disbursement from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund for advance warning signs at the Index Avenue crossing in Index is granted, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) Expenditure from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must not exceed \$250.

- (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 Town of Index 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, 2019.

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