

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Application of

CHEHALIS-CENTRALIA RAILROAD  
& MUSEUM

Applicant,

Requesting Disbursement from the  
Grade Crossing Protective Fund

DOCKET TR-200436

ORDER 01

GRANTING REQUEST FOR  
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 May 13, 2020, the Chehalis-Centralia Railroad & Museum (CCRM or Applicant) filed with the Commission an application (Application) requesting a disbursement of \$517.32 from the GCPF to replace a missing Emergency Notification System (ENS) sign, and to correct outdated emergency telephone numbers on ENS signs at 11 passive railroad crossings on the CCRM rail line in Lewis County. CCRM attached a list (Attachment 1) of the 11 affected crossings and the type of upgrade needed to their application.
- 3 This project will bring the crossings into compliance with the U.S. Department of Transportation Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) requirement to have ENS signs at all crossings.
- 4 Commission Staff (Staff) recommends the Commission approve funding in the amount of \$517.32. Currently there are funds available to pay for this project. The railroad will contribute the labor needed to install the upgrades.
- 5 Staff recommends the Commission approve the request for funds with the following conditions: (1) expenditure from the GCPF must not exceed \$517.32, (2) the work for which the GCPF disbursement is approved must conform to the project description specified in the Application, (3) the Applicant 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 highway-rail grade crossings. We find that the proposed modifications will improve the overall safety for roadway users and compliance with the MUTCD. 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 the 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 June 11, 2020.
- 11 (5) After reviewing CCRM's Application and list of crossings filed on May 13, 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 installation or updating of Emergency Notification System signs at 11 passive crossings in Lewis County is granted, subject to the following conditions:
- (1) Expenditure from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must not exceed \$517.32.
  - (2) The work for which the Grade Crossing Protective Fund disbursement was 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.
  - (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 June 11, 2020.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARK L. JOHNSON  
Executive Director and Secretary