

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Application of	)	DOCKET TR-120037
	)	
SOUND TRANSIT,	)	ORDER 01
	)	
Applicant,	)	
	)	ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR
Requesting Disbursement from the	)	DISBURSEMENT FROM THE GRADE
Grade Crossing Protective Fund	)	CROSSING PROTECTIVE FUND
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1     On August 18, 2011, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) sent to various interested parties a “Notice of Opportunity to Apply for Grant Monies from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund” in Docket TR-111224.
- 2     On January 4, 2012, Sound Transit (Sound Transit or the Applicant) filed with the Commission an application requesting a disbursement of \$20,000 from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund (GCPF) to pay for a project related to their Commuter Rail Lakewood Extension Safety Education Outreach Campaign. On February 6, 2012, Sound Transit filed a revised application.
- 3     Sound Transit seeks funding to initiate their Commuter Rail Lakewood Extension Safety Education Outreach Campaign. In 2012, Sound Transit will introduce a new extension of commuter rail service from Tacoma south to Lakewood with two stops. There will be a combination of 13 new and upgraded rail grade crossings associated with this extension. The campaign is designed to inform, educate and encourage the public to make safe choices when driving over highway rail grade crossings and along railroad right-of-ways.
- 4     Sound Transit currently provides 75 miles of Sounder Commuter Rail service connecting Tacoma, Seattle and Everett. When fully complete, Sounder Commuter Rail will provide 82 miles of commuter rail service between Everett and the City of Lakewood. Up to ten trains per-day will travel at speeds up to 60 miles per hour along this corridor. Currently the public is accustomed to six Tacoma Rail freight trains per-week operating at 20 miles per hour along this corridor. The dramatic increase in train speed and increasing the number of trains operating along this corridor warrants educating the surrounding

communities including, transients/homeless, business owners and employees, schools and school bus drivers, local law enforcement and the general public.

- 5 Commission GCPF grant funding would be used toward funding a portion of Sound Transit's campaign for implementing outreach methods and materials needed to educate surrounding communities in advance of operational testing and service of the new commuter rail extension.
- 6 Sound Transit seeks \$20,000 to pay for a portion of the cost of the safety educational campaign. The overall cost for the campaign is estimated at \$150,000. Sound Transit has also applied for a \$10,000 grant through Operation Lifesaver. There currently are GCPF funds available to pay for the project.
- 7 Sound Transit must also meet the following conditions for administering the GCPF grant.
  - Expenditure from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must not exceed \$20,000.
  - The work for which the Grade Crossing Protective Fund disbursement was approved must conform to the project description specified in the application.
  - Sound Transit must sign and return the attached project agreement.
  - Payment will be made upon presentation of claim for reimbursement and verification by Commission Staff that the work has been satisfactorily completed.
  - 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 June 1, 2013.

### **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 8 (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. *RCW 81.53.271; RCW 81.53.281.*

- 9 (2) The project for which Sound Transit seeks disbursement from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund 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.
- 10 (3) Commission Staff investigated the request based on the review criteria specified in the Commission's rules and recommended that it be granted, subject to specified conditions for administering the grant.
- Expenditure from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must not exceed \$20,000.
  - The work for which the Grade Crossing Protective Fund disbursement was approved must conform to the project description specified in the application.
  - Sound Transit must sign and return the attached project agreement.
  - Payment will be made upon presentation of claim for reimbursement and verification by Commission Staff that the work has been satisfactorily completed.
  - 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 June 1, 2013.
- 11 (4) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on February 23, 2012.
- 12 (5) After reviewing Sound Transit's application filed on January 4, 2012, and revised application on February 6, 2012, and giving due consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission grants the request for disbursement of funds.

**O R D E R**

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS:**

13 Sound Transit's application for disbursement from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund for initiating its Commuter Rail Lakewood Extension Safety Education Outreach Campaign, 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) Sound Transit 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 June 1, 2013.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective February 23, 2012.

**WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**DAVID W. DANNER, Executive Director and Secretary**