

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Application of)	DOCKET TR-112049
)	
WASHINGTON & IDAHO)	ORDER 01
RAILWAY,)	
)	ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR
Applicant,)	DISBURSEMENT FROM THE GRADE
)	CROSSING PROTECTIVE FUND
Requesting Disbursement from the)	
Grade Crossing Protective Fund)	USDOT 066274K
.....)	

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.”

- 2 On November 22, 2011, Washington & Idaho Railway (WIR or the Applicant) filed with the Commission an application requesting a disbursement of \$8,740.30 from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund (GCPF) to pay for a portion of crossing surface improvements. The crossing is identified as USDOT 066274K and is located at the intersection of Bishop Boulevard and the Applicant’s tracks in the city of Pullman. The Washington State Department of Transportation owns the rail line and is in support of the upgrade. WIR operates on this rail line.

- 3 WIR seeks to replace 10 damaged rubber grade crossing panels that have deteriorated and present a safety hazard to the traveling public. The crossing surface has become worn and chunks of rubber have broken out of the crossing panels causing drivers slow down to traverse the crossing. Approximately 26,000 vehicles travel over the Bishop Boulevard crossing on a daily basis.

- 4 WIR seeks \$8,740.30 to pay for the cost of the materials. WIR and the City of Pullman will contribute labor costs totaling \$1,809.80. The total approximate cost of the project is \$10,550.10. There currently are funds available to pay for the project. WIR will be responsible for long-term maintenance costs.

- 5 A site visit by Commission Staff confirmed that the safety problem described by WIR exists and that the crossing surface needs repair.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6 (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.*
- 7 (2) The project for which WIR 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.*
- 8 (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 \$8,740.30.
 - The work for which the Grade Crossing Protective Fund disbursement was approved must conform to the project description specified in the application.
 - WIR 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 April 1, 2012.
- 9 (4) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on December 29, 2011.
- 10 (5) After reviewing WIR's application filed on November 22, 2011, 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:

11 Washington & Idaho Railway's application for disbursement from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund for grade crossing surface improvements near Pullman, Washington, on Bishop Boulevard, is granted, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) Expenditure from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must not exceed \$8,740.30.
- (2) The work for which the Grade Crossing Protective Fund disbursement was approved must conform to the project description specified in the application.
- (3) Washington & Idaho Railway 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 April 1, 2012.

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 December 29, 2011.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

STEVEN V. KING, Acting Secretary