

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Application of	)	DOCKET TR-143906
	)	
SIMPSON LUMBER	)	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 July 1, 2013, 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-131246.
- 2 On November 18, 2014, Simpson Lumber filed with the Commission an application requesting a disbursement of \$60.00 from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund (GCPF) to pay for a passive crossing upgrade. On January 12, 2015, Simpson Lumber filed a revised application requesting a disbursement of \$936.28 from the GCPF to pay for upgrades to additional crossings.
- 3 Simpson Lumber seeks to place advance warning signs (W10-1) at one crossing and install emergency notification signs (ENS) and retroreflective tape at 14 crossings on their railroad line in Mason County. Each crossing will have two ENS signs, with one sign posted at each approach to the crossing. ENS signs include the railroad company name, emergency number and the unique USDOT number assigned to each crossing. Specific information about each crossing is contained in Simpson Lumber’s GCPF application and in the attached Appendix A.
- 4 The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) requires retroreflective tape on crossbuck sign posts. Retroreflective tape improves nighttime visibility, advising motorists of an approaching grade crossing. ENS signs will be required at all crossings in September 2015.
- 5 Simpson Lumber seeks \$936.28 to pay for the cost of the passive crossing upgrades. Simpson Lumber will contribute the labor to install the signs. There currently are funds available to pay for the project.

- 6 Simpson Lumber must also meet the following conditions for administering the GCPF grant.
- Expenditure from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must not exceed \$936.28.
  - The work for which the Grade Crossing Protective Fund disbursement was approved must conform to the project description specified in the application.
  - Simpson Lumber 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 30, 2015.

### **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 7 (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.
- 8 (2) The project for which Simpson Lumber 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.
- 9 (3) Commission staff inspected the 14 crossings and recommended that this request be granted, subject to specified conditions for administering the grant.
- Expenditure from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must not exceed \$936.28.
  - The work for which the Grade Crossing Protective Fund disbursement was approved must conform to the project description specified in the application.

- Simpson Lumber must sign and return the attached project agreement.
- Upon completion of the project, the applicant must submit photographs of each crossing and complete and sign an affidavit of project completion.
- 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 30, 2015.

10 (4) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on January 29, 2015.

11 (5) After reviewing Simpson Lumber's revised application filed on January 12, 2015, 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:**

12 Simpson Lumber's application for disbursement from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund for passive crossing upgrades on their railroad lines in Mason County is granted, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) Expenditure from the Grade Crossing Protective Fund must not exceed \$936.28.
- (2) The work for which the Grade Crossing Protective Fund disbursement was approved must conform to the project description specified in the application.
- (3) Simpson Lumber must sign and return the attached project agreement.
- (4) Upon completion of the project, the applicant must submit photographs of each crossing and complete and sign an affidavit of project completion.

- (5) Payment will be made upon presentation of claim for reimbursement and verification by Commission Staff that the work has been satisfactorily completed.
- (6) 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 30, 2015.

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 January 29, 2015.

**WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**STEVEN V. KING, Executive Director and Secretary**