



1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW  
PO Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250  
(360)664-1257 or (360)664-1100  
Fax: (360)586-1150  
Web: [www.wutc.wa.gov](http://www.wutc.wa.gov)  
E-mail: [records@utc.wa.gov](mailto:records@utc.wa.gov)

TR-072009

### GRADE CROSSING PROTECTIVE FUND APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (commission), through its Grade Crossing Protective Fund (GCPF), funds projects that eliminate or mitigate public safety hazards at railroad crossings and along railroad rights-of-way in Washington State. Any public, private, or non-profit entity may submit an application to the commission for GCPF monies.

**Please complete and submit the following information as part of the application process:**

#### **Applicant Information**

Applicant Name:	Dick Zais, City Manager
Organization:	City of Yakima
Address:	129 North Second Street, Yakima, WA 98901
Phone:	(509) 575-6040
E-mail:	
Fax:	(509) 576-6335

Please list all other companies, organizations or state or local agencies that may be involved in implementing this proposal and the contact name, address and phone number for each.

Yakima Valley Trolleys  
Kenneth G. Johnson  
P.O. Box 796  
Yakima, WA 98907-0796  
[yakimavalleytrolleys@hotmail.com](mailto:yakimavalleytrolleys@hotmail.com)

Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad Company  
Daniel MacDonald, P.E.  
Managing Engineer - Seattle  
2454 Occidental Avenue South, Suite 1\_A  
Seattle, WA 98134  
(206) 625-6150, Fax (206) 625-6115  
[daniel.macdonald@bnsf.com](mailto:daniel.macdonald@bnsf.com)

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RECEIVED

## Grade Crossing Protective Fund Application Form

### Project Information

1. *Provide a detailed summary of the hazard being addressed. Include:*
  - *Any information about accidents or incidents at the site.*
  - *Photographs, drawings or other materials that supports the application.*

Currently, there are only two pedestrian crossing facilities for crossing the Naches River at the northern city limits of the City of Yakima. One is located at the eastern city limits (I-82) and the other is at the western city limits (Powerhouse Road). Due to this lack of pedestrian facilities, and despite "No Trespassing" signs, pedestrians occasionally use the BNSF railroad bridge to cross the Naches River. On July 12, 2007, a man and woman who were crossing the Naches River on the railroad bridge were struck by a passing train and seriously injured.

On several occasions recently, railroad police hired by BNSF have had to remove trespassers from the railroad property in this vicinity.

2. *Provide a detailed description of the proposed project and explain how it will eliminate or mitigate the hazard. Include any drawings or construction plans for the proposed project.*

This project will construct six-foot chain link fence to impede pedestrian and motor vehicle trespass onto BNSF property in the vicinity of the Naches River Bridge. As part of the William O. Douglas Trail project, a pedestrian pathway is planned to be constructed across the trolley bridge within the next couple of years. Fencing as shown on the attached drawing would deter pedestrians from accessing the railroad bridge. The fence would begin where Gordon Road crosses underneath the railroad tracks, then heads west approximately 150 feet across the trolley tracks to approximately 8-feet west of the trolley tracks, then head in a northwesterly direction parallel to the trolley tracks for approximately 670 feet, then make a 90 degree turn across the trolley tracks, then head in a northeasterly direction for approximately 70 feet to end adjacent to the BNSF south bridge abutment. At both locations where the fence crosses the trolley tracks, 20-foot gates will be installed. The fencing will continue east of the BNSF bridge for approximately 150 feet parallel to the Greenway Path.

In addition to improving safety, this fencing project may reduce the railroad's requirement for police enforcement.

3. *Provide cost estimates. Include:*
  - *Total costs of the project.*
  - *Names of parties contributing to the project and the amount each is contributing.*

Total project costs are estimated to be \$37,000. The City is requesting a grant of \$20,000 toward this total from WUTC.

## Grade Crossing Protective Fund Application Form

4. *Provide the name of the party responsible for long-term maintenance.*  
**The City of Yakima and/or the Yakima Greenway Foundation will provide longterm maintenance of the fence.**
5. *Provide an estimated timeline of project, if approved.*  
**Weather permitting; the project will be completed this fall. If not, the project will be completed next spring**
6. *Provide a description of how the project's success would be measured.*  
**Success of this project can be measured by demonstrating a decrease in trespass incidents and pedestrian accidents on the BNSF Bridge.**
7. *Provide any other information the applicant believes would be useful to the commission in considering the project.*  
**At several recent meetings, BNSF personnel have expressed their encouragement and approval of our plans to channel pedestrians away from railroad property and to reduce trespass by means of fencing.**
8. *If the project involves any construction, modification or demolition on a railroad right-of-way, complete the attached Railroad Commitment form. This includes fencing, gates or other structures located near enough to the tracks to be on the railroad right-of-way, modification to a grade crossing or any other project that involves railroad property or rights-of-way.*  
**See accompanying email from BNSF engineer Daniel MacDonald expressing the railroad's concurrence with this project.**

### **Submitting the Application**

After completing the GCPF application, please send the original to:  
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
Attention: Grade Crossing Protective Fund  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW  
PO Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

A signed application may be filed electronically at [records@utc.wa.gov](mailto:records@utc.wa.gov). When filing electronically, please specify "Grade Crossing Protective Fund" in the subject line.

### **Assistance**

For questions or assistance, please contact:

- Kathy Hunter at (360)664-1257 or by e-mail at [khunter@utc.wa.gov](mailto:khunter@utc.wa.gov).
- David Pratt at (360)664-1100 or by e-mail at [dpratt@utc.wa.gov](mailto:dpratt@utc.wa.gov).

Railroad Commitment  
TR-072009

The undersigned represents the Railroad Company in the GCPF application described as (enter a brief description):

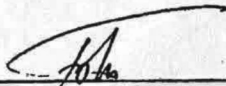
The City of Yakima has applied for GCPF funds to erect fencing for trespass abatement purposes. The City's trolley bridge and the adjacent BNSF Railway bridge cross the Naches River at the northern end of Yakima City limits. See attached photos for location of fencing. It is believed the BNSF has a 200 ft. right-of-way at this location and much of the fencing would be on that right-of-way. The City of Yakima and/or the Yakima Greenway Foundation will provide long-term maintenance of the fence.

We have reviewed the application and are satisfied the conditions are the same as described by the applicant in this matter. We agree to allow construction, modification or demolition on a railroad right-of-way as described in the application.

See Notes below.

John Li

Printed name of Railroad Representative



Signature of Railroad Representative

Manager, Public Projects

Title

206 625 6146

Phone

john.li@bnsf.com

E-mail

Date:

4/21/08

Notes: BNSF supports this application for safety improvements. The final design and location of the fencing will need to be approved by BNSF prior to its installation. The city will also need to obtain a permit from BNSF with current indemnity language and insurance limits and with a 30-day cancellation clause, if the fencing would be on BNSF's Right-of-Way.

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UTIL. AND TRANSP.  
COMMISSION

**From:** MacDonald, Dannel  
**To:** Wavenberg, Karen  
**Cc:** Polnick, Bruce K; Agee, David W  
**Subject:** RE: Yakima, WA - UTC Grant Application  
**Date:** Friday, October 05, 2007 3:24:51 PM

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Ms. Wayenberg,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the City of Yakima's UTC GCPF application. BNSF supports this application for safety improvements. The final design and location of the fencing will need to be approved by BNSF prior to its installation. We look forward to working with the City of Yakima address this safety concern.

Please contact me if you need additional information regarding BNSF's participation. Again, we look forward to working with the City on this issue.

Respectfully,

Dan

Dannel MacDonald, P.E.  
Manager Engineering - Seattle  
BNSF Railway Company  
2454 Occidental Avenue South, Suite 1A  
Seattle, WA 98134  
Office: (206) 625-6150  
Fax: (206) 625-6115  
daniel.macdonald@bnsf.com

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**From:** Wayenberg, Karen [mailto:kwayenbe@ci.yakima.wa.us]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 05, 2007 12:53 PM  
**To:** MacDonald, Dannel  
**Subject:** RE: Yakima, WA - UTC Grant Application

Thanks for reviewing our application and the page requiring BNSF signature. Feel free to call me or reply to this email.

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**From:** MacDonald, Dannel [mailto:Dannel.MacDonald@BNSF.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 05, 2007 12:47 PM  
**To:** Wayenberg, Karen  
**Subject:** Yakima, WA - UTC Grant Application

Ms. Wayenberg,

With reference to our conversation this afternoon, my contact information is following. I look forward to reviewing this application.

Respectfully,

Dan

Dannel MacDonald, P.E.

TR-072009

**Boston, Bob (UTC)**

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**From:** Sheffield, Brett [bsheffie@ci.yakima.wa.us]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 04, 2008 11:59 AM  
**To:** Boston, Bob (UTC)  
**Subject:** Grade Crossing Protective Fund Grant  
**Attachments:** YVT Fence.pdf

Bob,

As we have discussed, part of the William O. Douglas Trail will include a pathway across the Trolley Bridge to allow pedestrians access across the Naches River. I believe that the description in the original application should have been modified to read like the following:

This project will construct six-foot chain link fence to impede pedestrian and motor vehicle trespass onto BNSF property in the vicinity of the Naches River Bridge. As part of the William O. Douglas Trail project, a pedestrian pathway is planned to be constructed across the trolley bridge within the next couple of years. Fencing as shown on the attached drawing would deter pedestrians from accessing the railroad bridge. The fence would begin where Gordon Road crosses underneath the railroad tracks, then heads west approximately 150 feet across the trolley tracks to approximately 8-feet west of the trolley tracks, then head in a northwesterly direction parallel to the trolley tracks for approximately 670 feet, then make a 90 degree turn across the trolley tracks, then head in a northeasterly direction for approximately 70 feet to end adjacent to the BNSF south bridge abutment. At both locations where the fence crosses the trolley tracks, 20-foot gates will be installed. The fencing will continue east of the BNSF bridge for approximately 150 feet parallel to the Greenway Path.

In addition to improving safety, this fencing project may reduce the railroad's requirement for police enforcement.

I have also attached a drawing showing the proposed fencing project. If you have any questions or require additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me. Thanks for your help.

**Brett H. Sheffield, P.E.**

Chief Engineer  
City of Yakima  
PH. (509) 576-6797  
Fax (509) 576-6305