

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## ICC Approves Safety Upgrades for Stephenson County Highway-Rail Crossing Project

Springfield, IL – The Illinois Commerce Commission approved a public safety project for a highway-rail crossing in Stephenson County. The agreement requires the Chicago, Central & Pacific Railroad Company (CC&P) to install new automatic warning devices at the Bridge Street crossing near Lena (AAR/DOT #306831J, railroad milepost 122.32-W).

The estimated cost to design and install the new warning devices at the crossing is \$385,492. ICC staff recommended that the Grade Crossing Protection Fund (GCPF) be used to pay 95 percent of the costs, not to exceed \$366,217. CC&P will pay all remaining design and installation costs, as well as all future costs to operating and maintenance costs for the new warning devices.

“Investments like the one in Lena highlight how the Grade Crossing Protection Fund is being used to improve rail safety all over the state. These automatic warning signals will be crucial for keeping pedestrians, motorists, and passengers safe near railroad tracks,” said **ICC Commissioner Michael T. Carrigan**.

All work is expected to be completed within 18 months of the Order date.

To read Stipulated Agreement 2214 in Docket No. T23-0045 click [here](#).

**ABOUT THE STATE OF ILLINOIS GRADE CROSSING PROTECTION FUND (GCPF)** In 1955, the State of Illinois passed legislation creating the GCPF. Since then, Illinois has strengthened its commitment to public highway-rail safety by increasing funding toward projects such as the closure and consolidation of existing public crossings, installation of new warning systems, highway approach improvements, upgrades to existing warning devices and interconnection to nearby traffic signals, construction/reconstruction of grade separation structures and the construction of pedestrian grade separations. The Commission administers the GCPF, which is funded by motor fuel tax money designated for rail safety improvements. The General Assembly appropriates \$42 million annually for the GCPF. For more information and to see the ICC's annual Crossing Safety Improvement Program, click [here](#).

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