



ICC Approves Highway-Rail Crossing Improvement Project Near Bluford

Springfield, IL – The Illinois Commerce Commission approved a Stipulated Agreement requiring the installation of new automatic flashing light signals, gates, and approach grade improvements at the Falcon Lane/TR 476 grade crossing (AAR/DOT #724756C, railroad milepost 94.75-W) near Bluford in Jefferson County.

The total estimated costs for the new automatic warning devices at the crossing are \$422,395. Staff recommended that the Grade Crossing Protection Fund (GCPF) be used to pay 95 percent of the signal installation costs, not to exceed \$401,275. Norfolk Southern will pay all remaining signal design and installation costs, and all future operating and maintenance costs related to the new automatic warning devices.

The estimated cost to improve the roadway approach grades is \$200,188. GCPF funds will be used to pay 100 percent of the costs, not to exceed \$200,188.

“Projects like the ones in Bluford are necessary to keep pedestrians and motorists safe on or near railroad tracks and trains. The GCPF makes it possible for local communities to make these much-needed upgrades,” said **ICC Commissioner Michael T. Carrigan**.

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

The Stipulated Agreement 2224 can be read on the ICC website through Docket No. T23-0064 [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](#).

ABOUT THE ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION (ICC)

The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) is a quasi-judicial body made up of five Commissioners. Through its Public Utility Program, the Commission oversees the provision of adequate, reliable, efficient and safe utility services at the least possible cost to Illinois citizens served by electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water and sewer public utility companies. Through its Transportation Regulatory Program, the Commission oversees public safety and consumer protection programs with

regard to intrastate commercial motor carriers of general freight, household goods movers, relocation towers, safety towers, personal property warehouses and repossession agencies. The Commission's Rail Safety Program also inspects and regulates the general safety of railroad tracks, facilities and equipment in the state.

To learn more about the Commission, its offices and bureaus, click [here](#). If you are a consumer who needs help resolving a utility dispute call 800-524-0795 or file an online complaint [here](#). For a complaint related to transportation, call 217-782-6448.

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