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Highway-Rail Crossing Improvements for Champaign County Approved by the ICC

Springfield, IL - As a matter of public safety, the Illinois Commerce Commission recently granted approval of Stipulated Agreements to install new automatic warning devices at the CR2300N grade crossing located near Thomasboro and the CR 3600N grade crossing near Paxton, both in Champaign County.

The total estimated cost for the new automatic warning devices is \$572,956. ICC Staff recommends that the Grade Crossing Protection Fund be used to pay 95% of the installation costs, not to exceed \$544,308. Illinois Central Railroad Company will pay all remaining installation costs, and all future costs to maintain the new warning devices.

In addition, the staff recommends that the GCPF be used to pay 100% (\$61,000) of the costs to improve the highway approach grades at the CR2300 N crossing. The Sommer Township Road District will be required to pay 100% of the costs to maintain the reconstructed roadway approaches. Ludlow Township Road District is responsible for all costs to install and maintain Advance Warning Signs along CR3600N near the crossing.

All work is to be completed by within twelve (12) months of the Order date.

"The allocation of Grade Crossing Protection funds enables this rail safety project to move forward, and that is good news for the community and all those traversing the crossing," said ICC Commissioner Michael T. Carrigan.

To read Stipulated Agreement 2085 in Docket No. T21-0096 click <u>here</u> and <u>here</u> for Stipulated Agreement 2087 in Docket No. T1-0097.

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 towards project 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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