

ICC Approves Highway-Rail Crossing Improvement Near Bonnie

Springfield, IL – As a matter of public safety, the Illinois Commerce Commission recently granted approval of a Stipulated Agreement to install new automatic flashing light signals and gates and reconstruct the existing highway approach grades at the East Lang Lane Crossing of the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) in the Village of Bonnie.

The total estimated cost to install the new automatic warning devices is \$262,805. ICC Staff recommends that the Grade Crossing Protection Fund (GCPF) be used to reimburse UP for 95% of the installation costs, not to exceed \$249,665. The rail company will pay all remaining installation costs as well as all future costs to maintain the new warning devices. UP will also be required to pay all costs to install and maintain temporary STOP signs at the crossing, until the new automatic warning devices are installed and operational.

The Village of Bonnie is required to reconstruct the existing highway approach grades. Staff recommends that the GCPF be used to reimburse the Village for 100% of the costs to reconstruct the approach grades. The Village of Bonnie is not required to pay any costs associated with this improvement.

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 2094 in Docket No. T21-0014 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 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 <u>here</u>.

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