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## ICC Grants \$2 Million for Phase 2 Engineering Study for Will County Grade Separation Project Near New Lenox

Springfield, the Illinois Commerce Commission recently authorized \$2 million in Grade Crossing Protection Funds (GCPF) to be used for Phase 2 Engineering for the development of contract plans, specifications, and detailed estimates for a proposed grade separation over the Wisconsin Central (CN Railroad) at-grade crossing, located on Gougar Road near New Lenox in Will County.

“This project is important for Will County, and it exemplifies the ICC’s long-standing commitment to keep pedestrians, motorists, and railroad employees safe at rail-highway crossings in communities across Illinois,” said ICC Chairman Carrie Zalewski.

The estimated total cost for Phase 2 Engineering is \$2,239,150. Staff recommends the GCPF be used to pay 89% of the cost, not to exceed \$2 million. Will County has agreed to fund all costs exceeding the GCPF contribution. The county is also responsible for submitting detailed phase 2 plans for the proposed improvement to the IDOT for approval and every six months must provide the Commission with status reports on the progress of the project.

“We are pleased the Commission approved the Stipulated Agreement so that we can continue to move forward with this very important public safety project,” said ICC’s Rail Safety Program Administrator Brian Vercruysse.

All work is to be completed before July 1, 2023.

To read the Stipulated Agreement 2167 in Docket No. T22-0011 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 [here](#).

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