

NC  
FILE

RECEIVED-DOCKETING DIV  
2009 JUN -3 AM 10:51

Public Utilities  
Commission of Ohio

PUCO

# Memo

**To:** Docketing Division  
**From:** George Martin, Grade Crossing Planner, Rail Division *GM*  
**Re:** In the matter of the authorization of Norfolk Southern Railway and Cleveland Commercial Railroad to install active grade crossing warning devices Cuyahoga County  
**Date:** June 3, 2009

---

The Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) has authorized funding for Norfolk Southern Railway (NS) and Cleveland Commercial Railroad (CCRL) to install active grade crossing warning devices at the following location:

Cuyahoga County, City of Garfield Heights, McCracken Rd/CR 55, DOT# 524-232N

NS operates two main line tracks at the crossing. CCRL operates a single main track approximately 100 feet east of NS. The same DOT number identifies this location.

On September 23, 2008 the crossing was surveyed by the Commission, ORDC, ODOT, NS and CCRL, and was found to warrant an upgrade. Specifically, the railroads are authorized to install improvements as identified under the Diagnostic Team Recommendations on page three of the survey form (attached). These improvements will be actual cost and will be federally funded.

Staff requests an Entry with plans and estimates to be submitted to the Commission and ORDC within 90 days and completion within one year. Upon approval of the plans and estimates by ORDC construction may commence. A suggested case coding and heading would be:

PUCO Case No. 09- **469** -RR-FED In the matter of the authorization of Norfolk Southern Railway and Cleveland Commercial Railroad to install active grade crossing warning devices in Cuyahoga County

C: Legal Department

Please serve the following parties of record.

Ms Susan Kirkland

Ohio Rail Development Commission

50 W Broad St, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor

Columbus, Oh 43215

Mr Rick Ray

Norfolk Southern Railway

1200 Peachtree St NE, Box 123

Atlanta, Ga 30309

Mr Mike Kole

Cleveland Commercial Railroad

29930 Pettibone Rd


Glenwillow, Oh 44139

Mayor Thomas J. Longo

5407 Turney Rd

Garfield Heights, Oh 44125

## OHIO RAIL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

**TO:** George Martin, Planner, Railroad Division, PUCO  
**FROM:** Susan Kirkland, Manager, Safety Section, ORDC   
**BY:** Mike Forte', Project Manager, Safety Section, ORDC  
**SUBJECT:** Grade Crossing Warning Device Project  
Cuyahoga County, McCracken Road  
Norfolk Southern Railroad (NS) & Cleveland Commercial Railway (CCRL)  
AAR # 524 232N  
**DATE:** June 1, 2009

---

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) and the Ohio Rail Development Commission selected the subject crossing as a priority selection for warning device improvement in late summer 2008. The project came about via an *Angels on Track Foundation Dangerous Crossing Report* that resulted in a zero train count in the Ohio database being increased to 55 trains per day. This dramatic change elevated the hazard ranking to six. A diagnostic review was scheduled for September 23, 2008, the ORDC attended the review.

The ORDC will fund the project at a 100% reimbursement to both NS and CCRL.

Please issue an Order for the upgrade of the crossing with improvements made as directed on the attached diagnostic form. Please have a copy of the review form added to the PUCO formal docket and distribute copies of the form to both railroads with the PUCO Order.

This construction authorization is made with the stipulation and understanding that any field work needs prior approval before the work begins. This authorization is made with the stipulation and understanding that an approved estimate may contain entries for items or activities that may be cited and found to be ineligible for federal participation during the project audit.

Thank you for your assistance with these matters.

Attachment (Diagnostic Review)

c: Mike Forte' (file)



## Diagnostic Review Team Survey

Date: 9-23-08

|  |                             |  |  |
|--|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Location Data  |                             |  |  |
| Street or Road Name: McCracken Road                        |                             |  |  |
| Route/Road Number (i.e. Twp., Co., SR or US): CR 55        |                             | AAR-DOT No.: 524-232N - Both railroads |  |
| County: Cuyahoga   | Township:                   | City: (In or Near) Cleveland           |  |
| Railroad Name: Norfolk Southern Cleveland Commercial RR Co | Railroad Division: Dearborn | Branch/Line Name:                      |  |
| Nearest RR Timetable Station: Cleveland                    |                             | RR Milepost: 112.98                    |  |

## On-Site Review Team

(Include: Name - Organization - Phone Number)

- |     |                |           |              |
|-----|----------------|-----------|--------------|
| 1.  | MIKE FORTÉ     | ORDC      | 614-644-0283 |
| 2.  | TIM DENZLER    | CEI       | 440-546-8711 |
| 3.  | MICHAEL KOLE   | CCR       | 440-227-3780 |
| 4.  | JOHN W. THREAT | ODOT      | 216-584-2166 |
| 5.  | Joseph Soond   | ODOT D.12 | 216-584-2172 |
| 6.  | DAVID MCINTYRE | NS        | 330-221-6811 |
| 7.  | SHAWN ZURKSY   | PUCO      | 614-466-1150 |
| 8.  |                |           |              |
| 9.  |                |           |              |
| 10. |                |           |              |

## Existing Traffic Control Devices

| Type of Warning Devices               | Installed?                              |  | Quantity/Comments                                      |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Advance Warning Signs                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No            | 2  |
| 'Stop' Signs                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |  |
| 'Stop Ahead' Signs                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |  |
| Pavement Markings                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |  |
| Crossbucks                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No            |  |
| Number of Tracks Signs                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No            |  |
| Inventory Tags                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No            |  |
| Interconnected Highway Traffic Signal | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |  |
| Mast-Mounted Flashing Lights          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No            | 4  |
| Cantilever Flashing Lights            | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | Number: Length:  |
| Side Lights                           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No            | 1 SET ON NS FOR DRIVEWAY TO THE                        |
| Automatic Gates                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No            | Number: 2 Length: 21' CLR 16' NS                       |
| Bells                                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No            | 2  |
| Sidewalk Gate Arms                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |  |
| 'No Turn' Signs                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |  |
| Illumination                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No            |  |
| Is crossing flagged by train crew?    | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input type="checkbox"/> No            |  |
| Other                                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No            | 2 FLASHING LIGHTS ABOVE ROADWAY "SMALL VEHICLE TRACKS" |

UPDATED (12/2006)

**Safety Data (Obtain crash reports, if possible, prior to review)**

|   | Initial Information (from database)        | Revised      |
|---|--|--------------|
| Number & dates of crashes in previous 5 years | 1/12/98, 5/20/02, 8/3/04, 2/25/08, 3/22/08 |              |
| Hazard Ranking                                | 6 Date Run: 8/20/08                        | 7-1/7/09 Cam |

**Railroad Data**

| Railroad Characteristics      | Initial Information (from database) | NS         | Revised | CLR |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|---------|-----|
| Total trains per day          | 55                                  | 65         | 2       |     |
| < 1 per day                   |                                     |            |         |     |
| Day thru trains               | 30                                  | 40         | 2       |     |
| Night thru trains             |                                     | 20         |         |     |
| Daytime switching movements   | 0                                   | 3 PER WEEK |         |     |
| Nighttime switching movements |                                     |            |         |     |
| Total number of tracks        | 5                                   |            |         |     |
| Number of main tracks         | 3                                   |            |         |     |
| Number of other tracks        | 2                                   |            |         |     |
| Maximum train speed           |                                     | 60         |         |     |
| Typical train speed           |                                     | 40         |         |     |
| Amtrak                        |                                     | 2 PER DAY  |         |     |

If non-gated crossing, is clearing sight distance adequate in all quadrants? (See Table 1) ☐ Yes ☐ No **NA**

If multiple tracks, can two trains occupy crossing at the same time? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Can one train block the motorists' view of another train at crossing? ☒ Yes (Explain below) ☐ No

Are there other track(s) crossing this same roadway within 100 ft of this crossing? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, Crossing DOT # (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, distance 115' (take measurement between track centerlines at closest point along roadway)

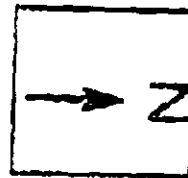
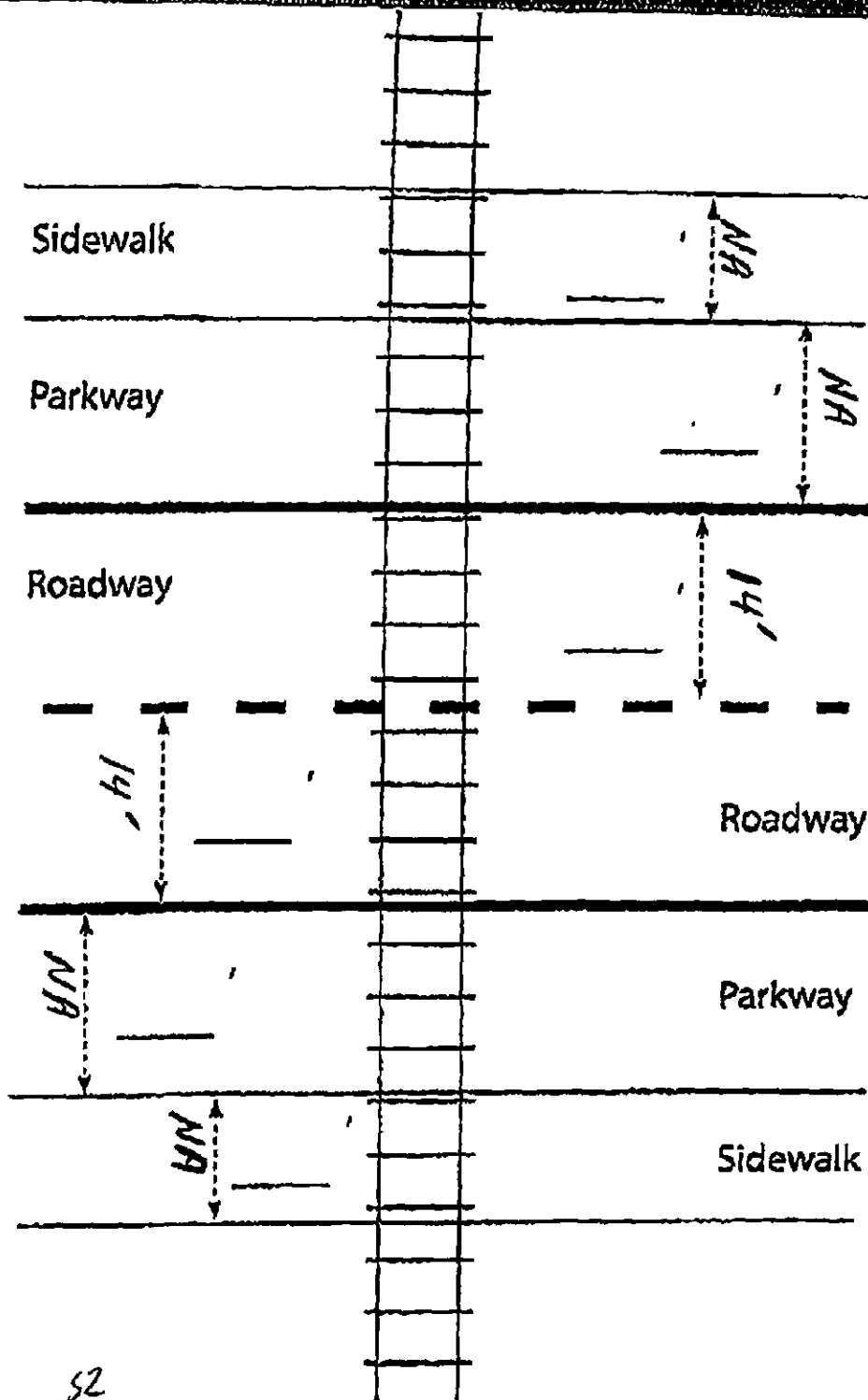
**Roadway Data**

Local Highway Authority: City of Garfield Heights  
(Who maintains this roadway?)

| Roadway Characteristics  | Initial Information (from database)                                 | Revised  |
|--|---|--|
| Average daily traffic  | 4018  |  |
| Highway paved  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No             |
| Roadway Surface: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blacktop <input type="checkbox"/> Gravel <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |   |  |
| Roadway width: <u>28</u> ft.   |   |  |
| Number of highway lanes  | <u>2</u>  |  |
| Urban or Rural?  | <u>URBAN</u>  |  |
| Vehicle Speed: <u>35</u> MPH   |   |  |
| School Bus Operation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes _____ Amount   |   | <u>UNKNOWN</u>   |
| Hazardous Materials Trucks: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes _____ Amount  |   | <u>UNKNOWN</u>   |
| Shoulders: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes   |   |  |
| Is the shoulder surfaced? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes  |   |  |
| Is there existing guardrail along roadway in crossing vicinity? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes                                  |   |  |
| Is stopping site distance adequate? (See Table 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No  |   | If no, deficient approach(es) <u>SOUTHEAST AND NORTH EAST ON CLR</u> |

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| Quadrant _____<br>Curb and Gutter: <input type="checkbox"/> Functional (Curb height = 4" or more)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Non-functional (Curb height = Less than 4")<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None | Quadrant _____<br>Curb and Gutter: <input type="checkbox"/> Functional (Curb height = 4" or more)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Non-functional (Curb height = Less than 4")<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None |  |
| Pedestrians: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes   |   |  |
| Is sidewalk present? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes  |   |  |
| Is there a nearby intersection that could cause queuing over the crossing? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes<br>If yes,<br>Distance <u>15' (PRIVATE DRIVE)</u>                      |   |  |
| Is this intersection signalized? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes  |   |  |
| Are the signals currently interconnected with the existing crossing warning devices? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes  |   |  |
| Is it the consensus of the Diagnostic Review Team that this is a potential closure project? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br>Explain reasons:                                   |   |  |
| <b>Type of Development</b>  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Open Space<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial<br><input type="checkbox"/> Residential   | <input type="checkbox"/> Institutional<br><input type="checkbox"/> Commercial   | Location of nearby schools:<br><u>APPROX 2 MILES</u> |
| <b>Utility Information</b>  |   |  |
| Is commercial power available? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes  |   |  |
| Utility Provider (Company Name) <u>CEI</u>  |   | Phone Number <u>440-546-8711</u>                     |
| Nearest Available Power Source <u>EXISTING</u>  |   |  |
| What other utilities are present? <u>FIBER OPTICS, SEWER AND STORM SEWER</u>  |   |  |
| Is there potential utility conflict(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown   |   |  |
| <b>Diagnostic Team Recommendations</b>  |   |  |
|   | Quadrants Needed  |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Install/upgrade active devices  | <u>NORTH EAST &amp; SOUTH WEST ON NS AND CCR</u>  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Automatic Flashing Lights (AFLS)   |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AFLS / Cants   |   |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AFLS / Gates  | <u>NORTHEAST ON NS &amp; CCR SOUTH WEST ON CCR</u>  |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AFLS / Gates / Cants  | <u>SOUTH WEST ON NS</u>   |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Upgrade circuitry   | <u>CCR FROM STYLC TO PROCTOR</u>  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sidelights   |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guardrail Needed   |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Install/Replace curb   |   |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (define)  | <u>SEE COMMENTS</u>   |  |
| Comments:   |   |  |
| <u>LHA SHOULD INSTALL PAVEMENT MARKINGS AND STOP BARS PLUS AN ADDITIONAL STOP BAR AT THE PRIVATE DRIVE IN THE SOUTHWEST QUADRANT</u>  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Install/upgrade traffic signal preemption  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No improvements needed   |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (define)   |   |  |

# Field Dimensions



Show North Direction

Crossing Angle ☒ 0-29° ☐ 30-59° ☒ 60-90° Measured in North-SE Quadrant?

Measurements by: Shawn Zurfly

UPDATED (1/2/2006)

Sep. 29 2008 10:03AM P 4

FAX NO. :

FROM :

Oct. 09 2008 08:22AM P 4

FAX NO. :

FROM :

# Field Sketch

NOTE: NOT TO SCALE

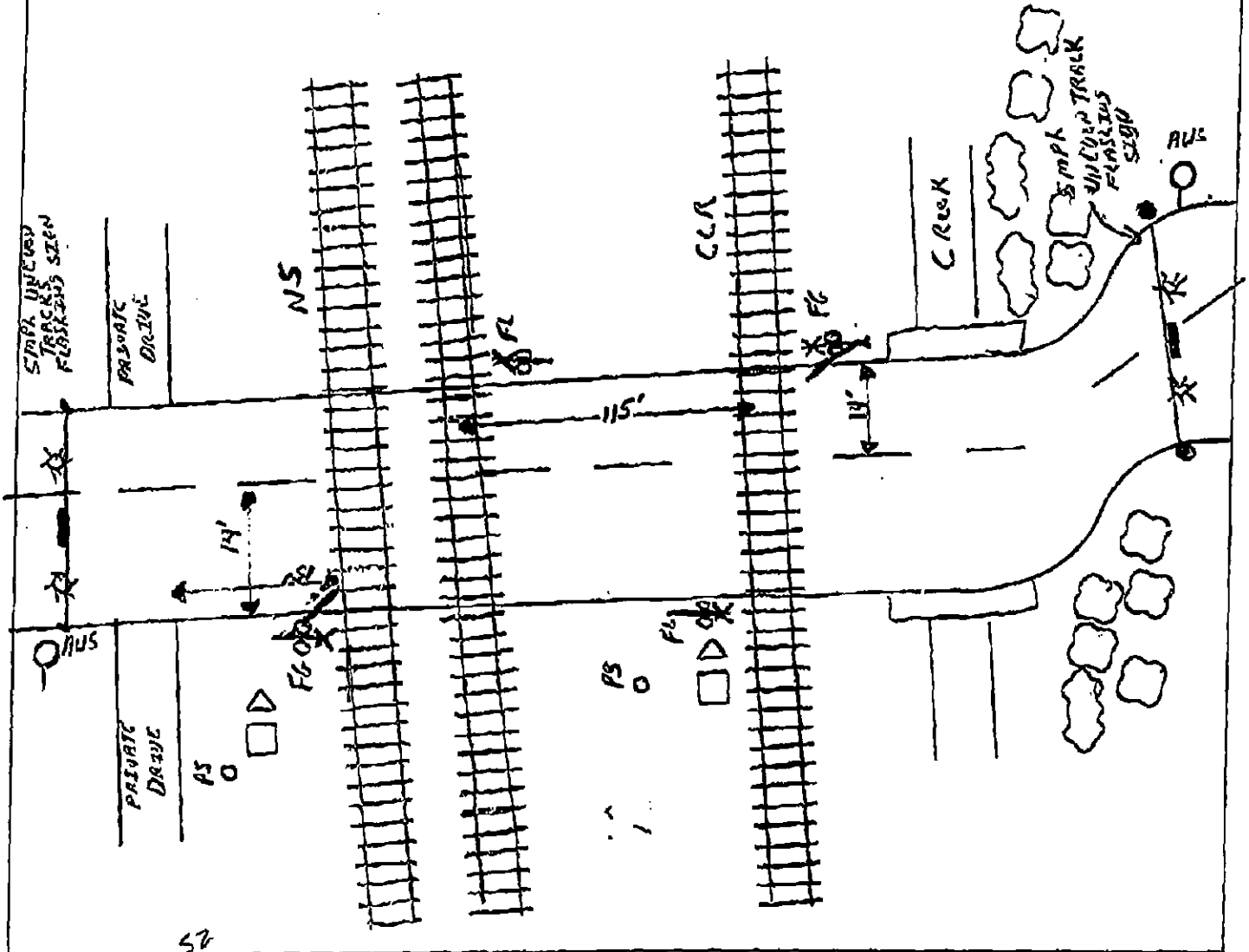
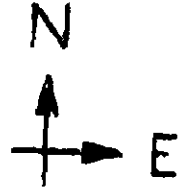
AWS = ADVANCED WARNING SIGN

FG = FLASHER & GATE

FL = FLASHER

PS = POWER SERVICE

MC CRACKEN ROAD



Crossing Angle ☒ 0-29° ☐ 30-59° ☒ 60-90° Measured in \_\_\_\_\_ Quadrant?

Sketch by: SHAWN ZURFELY

5

UPDATED (12/2006)

Sep. 29 2008 10:03AM P 5

FRX NO. :

FROM :

Oct. 09 2008 08:22AM P 5

FRX NO. :

FROM :