NC

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2010 SEP 17 PM 12:55

PUCO

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

Memo

To: Docketing Division

From: George Martin, Grade Crossing Planner, Rail Division

Re: In the matter of the authorization of the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway to install an active grade crossing warning device in Portage County

Date: September 17, 2010

The Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) has secured funding for the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway (WE) to install active grade crossing warning devices as follows:

Portage County, Suffield Township, Etter Rd/TR 9, 472-642R, **mast-mounted flashing lights and roadway gates.**

The crossing was surveyed on April 8, 2010 and was found to warrant the upgrade.

The project is actual cost and will be paid for with federal funds. Staff requests an Entry with plans and an estimate to be submitted to the Commission and ORDC within 90 days and completion within one year. Upon approval of the plans and estimate by ORDC construction may commence. A suggested case coding and heading would be:

PUCO Case No. 10-1393 -RR-FED In the matter of the authorization of the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway to install an active grade crossing warning device in Portage County

C: Legal Department

Please serve the following parties of record

Ms Susan Kirkland

Ohio Rail Development Commission

1980 West Broad St

Columbus, Oh 43223

Mr Dan Reinsel

Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway

100 E. First St.

Brewster, Oh 44613

Mr David Polen

Suffield Township Trustees

2150 May Rd

Suffield, Oh 44260

Ohio Edison Legal Department

PO Box 3637

Akron, Oh 44309-3637

OHIO RAIL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

TO: George Martin, Planner, Railroad Division, PUCO

FROM: Susan Kirkland, Manager, Safety Section, ORDC

BY: Cathy Stout, Safety Section, ORDC Cathy

SUBJECT: Portage County, Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad (WLE)
Etter Road, AAR DOT# 472 642R

DATE: July 7, 2010

The Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) established a diagnostic review at the subject location on April 8, 2010. The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) attended the review. The Diagnostic Team recommended the installation of flashing lights and roadway gates. A copy of the diagnostic review form is attached.

The warning device improvement project was requested by a constituent through *The Angels on Track Foundation* website. The ORDC will fund the project by reimbursing WLE at 100% of eligible costs.

Please issue an Order for the project outlined above. 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: M. Fortè (file)

Ohio Rail Development Commission
50 W. Broad Street, Suite 1510
Columbus, OH 43215

Diagnostic Review Team Survey

Date: APRIL 8, 2010

Location Data

Street or Road Name: ETTER RD

Route/Road Number (i.e. Twp., Co., SR or US): 9 (include SLM if State or US route) | AAR-DOT No.: 472 642R

County: POR | Township: SUFFIELD | City: (In or Near) MOGADORE

Railroad Name: W+LE | Railroad Division: | Branch/Line Name: CLEVELAND

Nearest RR Timetable Station: MOGADORE | RR Milepost: 40.81

On-Site Review Team

(Include: Name – Organization – Phone Number)

1. MIKE FORTE ORDC 614.374.9287
2. GEORGE MARTIN PUCO 614-752-9107
3. DAVE POLEN SUFFIELD TRUSTEE 330-608-4507
4. DAN REINSEL WLE 330-767-7202
5. SCOTT MCBROOM SUFFIELD RD DEPT. 330-628-4974
6. TOM ZEHNE ARSC 614-876-6436
7.
8.
9.

Existing Traffic Control Devices

Type of Warning Devices	Installed?	Quantity/Comments
Advance Warning Signs	☑ Yes ☐ No	2
'Stop' Signs	☐ Yes ☑ No	
'Stop Ahead' Signs	☐ Yes ☐ No	
Pavement Markings	☑ Yes ☐ No	2
Crossbucks	☑ Yes ☐ No	2 BUCKEYE
Number of Tracks Signs	☐ Yes ☑ No	
Inventory Tags	☑ Yes ☐ No	
Interconnected Highway Traffic Signal	☐ Yes ☑ No	~~NA~~
Mast-Mounted Flashing Lights	☐ Yes ☑ No	
Cantilever Flashing Lights	☐ Yes ☑ No	Number: Length:
Side Lights	☐ Yes ☑ No	
Automatic Gates	☐ Yes ☑ No	Number: Length:
Bells	☐ Yes ☑ No	
Sidewalk Gate Arms	☐ Yes ☑ No	
'No Turn' Signs	☐ Yes ☑ No	
Illumination	☐ Yes ☑ No	
Is crossing flagged by train crew?	☐ Yes ☑ No	
Other	☐ Yes ☐ No	

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

	Initial Information (from database)	Revised
Number & dates of crashes in previous 5 years	1	
Hazard Ranking	152 Date Run: 4·1·10	

Railroad Data

Railroad Characteristics	Initial Information (from database)	Revised
Total trains per day	4	
< 1 per day		
Day thru trains	1	
Night thru trains	3	
Daytime switching movements		
Nighttime switching movements		
Total number of tracks	1	
Number of main tracks	1	
Number of other tracks		
Maximum train speed		25
Typical train speed	10	25
Amtrak	~~10~~ N	N

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

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

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 _____ (take measurement between track centerlines at closest point along roadway)

Roadway Data

Local Highway Authority: SUFFIELD TWP.

Roadway Characteristics	Initial Information (from database)	Revised
Average daily traffic	795 (2006)	
Highway paved	☑ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No

Roadway Surface: ☑ Blacktop ☐ Gravel ☐ Concrete ☐ Other _____

Roadway width: 19 ft.

Number of highway lanes	2	
Urban or Rural		
Vehicle Speed: 25 MPH		

School Bus Operation: ☐ No ☑ Yes ____ Amount

Hazardous Materials Trucks: ☐ No ☑ Yes ____ Amount

Shoulders: ☐ No ☑ Yes

Is the shoulder surfaced? ☐ No ☑ Yes AGGREGATE

Is there existing guardrail along roadway in crossing vicinity? ☑ No ☐ Yes

Is stopping site distance adequate? (See Table 2) ☑ Yes ☐ No If no, deficient approach(es) _____

Quadrant _____ Curb and Gutter: NO	Quadrant _____ Curb and Gutter:
☐ Functional (Curb height = 4" or more)	☐ Functional (Curb height = 4" or more)
☐ Non-functional (Curb height = Less than 4")	☐ Non-functional (Curb height = Less than 4")
☐ None	☐ None

Pedestrians: ☐ No ☑ Yes

Is sidewalk present? ☑ No ☐ Yes

Is there a nearby intersection that could cause queuing over the crossing? ☑ No ☐ Yes

If yes,

Distance _____

Is this intersection signalized? ☐ No ☐ Yes

Are the signals currently interconnected with the existing crossing warning devices? ☐ No ☐ Yes

Is it the consensus of the Diagnostic Review Team that this is a potential closure project: ☑ No ☐ Yes

Explain reasons:

Type of Development

☐ Open Space ☐ Institutional

☐ Industrial ☐ Commercial

☑ Residential

Location of nearby schools: MOGADORE > 1 MILE

Utility Information

Is commercial power available? ☐ No ☑ Yes

Utility Provider (Company Name) FIRST ENERGY Phone Number _____

Nearest Available Power Source AT CROSSING

What other utilities are present? CABLE, ELEC, PHONE

Is there potential utility conflict(s) ☑ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

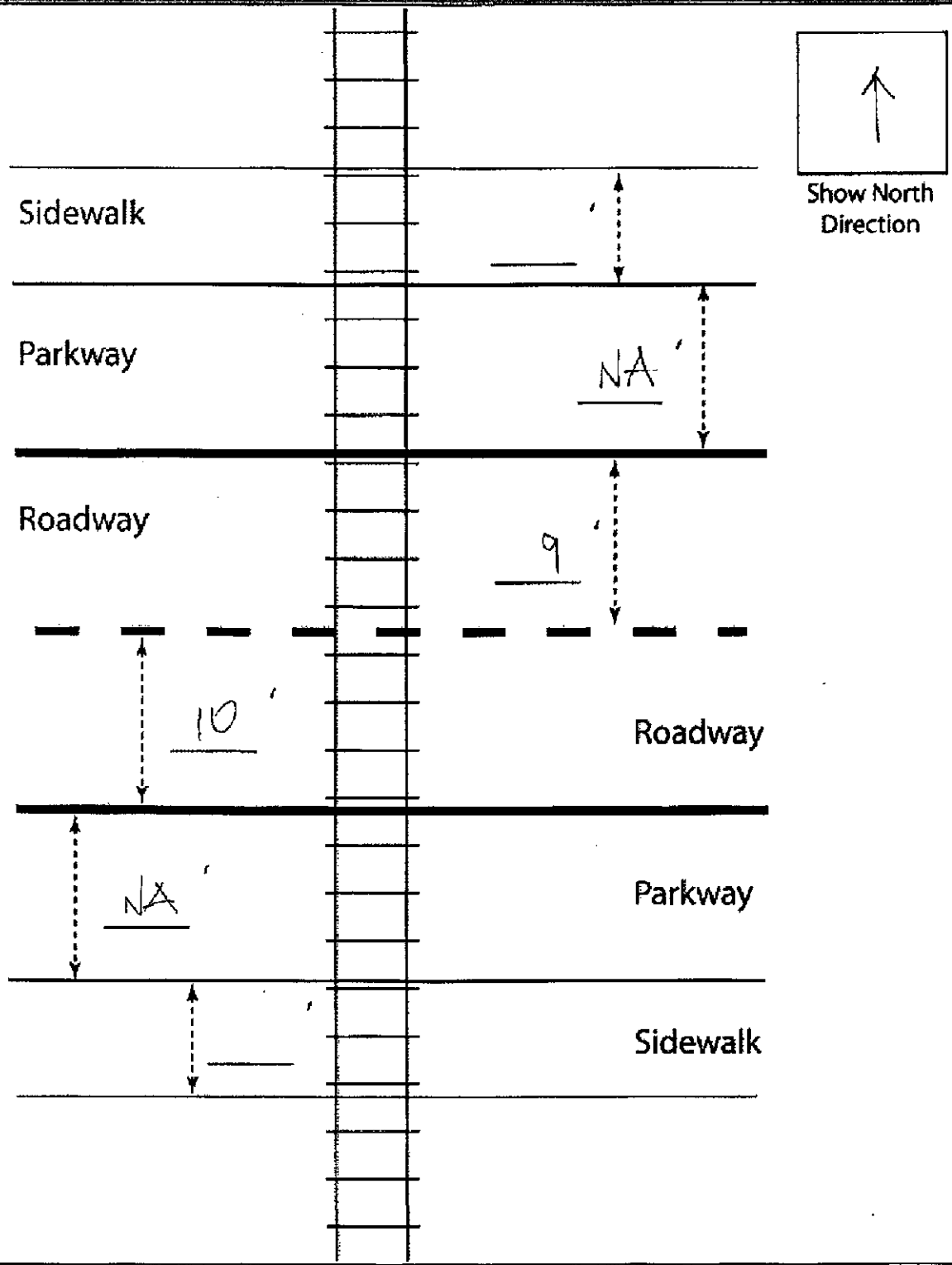
Diagnostic Team Recommendations

	Quadrants Needed
☑ Install/upgrade active devices	
☑ Automatic Flashing Lights (AFLS)	BETWEEN RAIL + DRIVE
☐ AFLS /Cants	
☑ AFLS / Gates	NE + SW
☐ AFLS / Gates / Cants	
☐ Upgrade circuitry	
☑ Sidelights	SW
☐ Guardrail Needed	
☐ Install/Replace curb	
☐ Other (define)	

Comments:

☐ Install/upgrade traffic signal preemption	
☐ No improvements needed	
☐ Other (define)	

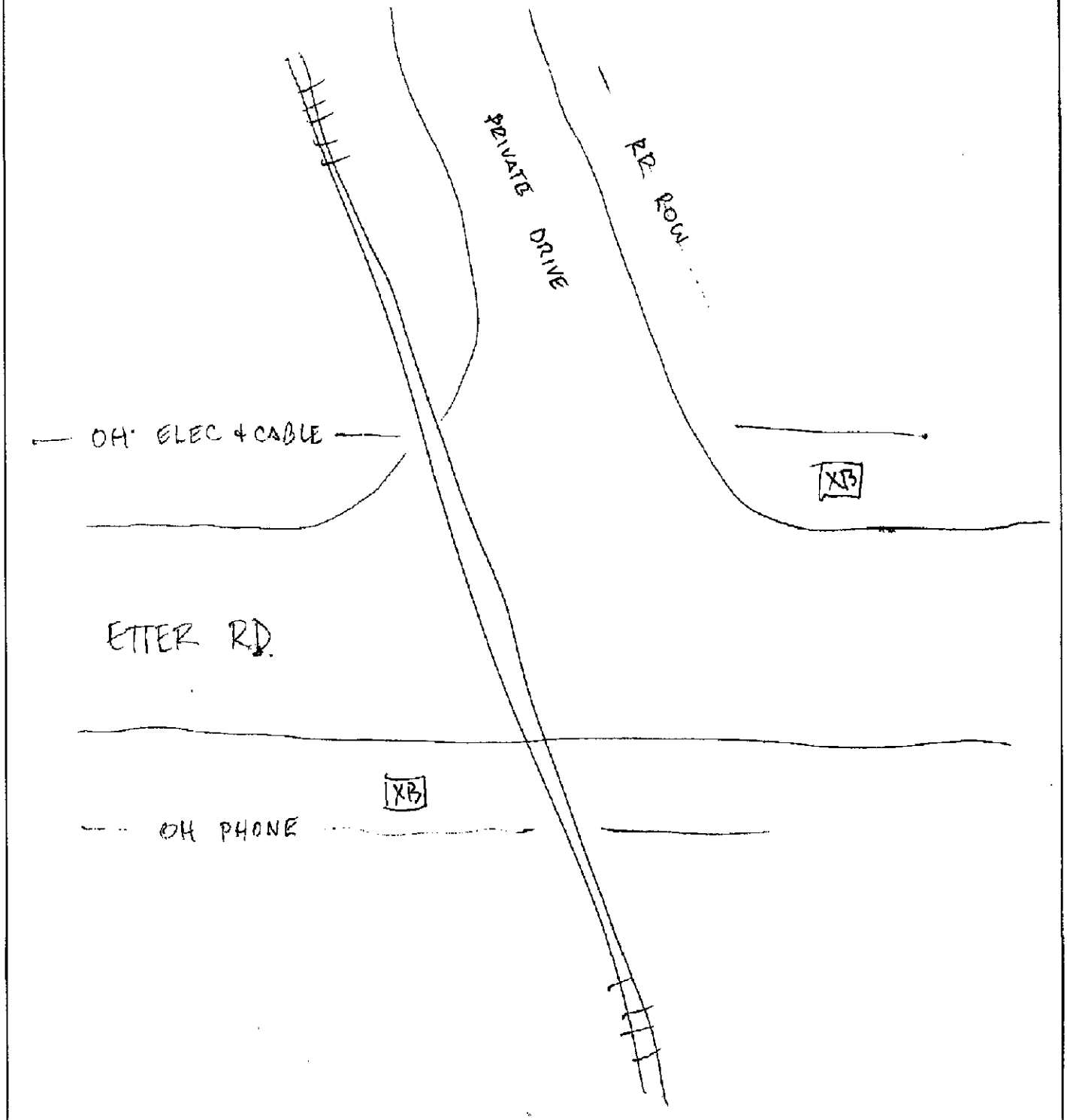
Field Dimensions



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

Measurements by: MDE

Field Sketch



Crossing Angle ☐ 0-29° ☐ 30-59° ☐ 60-90° Measured in _____ Quadrant?

Sketch by: MDF

TABLE 1

Clearing Sight Distances

Maximum Authorized Train Speed	Distance (dT) Along Railroad from Crossing (ft)
1 - 10	240
15	360
20	480
25	600
30	720
35	840
40	960
45	1080
50	1200
55	1320
60	1440
65	1560
70	1680
75	1800
80	1920
85	2040
90	2160

Source: R-H Grade Crossing Handbook Table 36 (pp. 132-133)

Notes:

All calculated distances are rounded up to the next higher 5-foot increment.

Distances indicated are for 65-ft double bottom semi-tractor trailers and level single track 90 degree crossings; and may need to be adjusted for multiple tracks, skewed crossings or approaches on grades.

Clearing Sight Distance is to be measured in each vehicle travel direction at non-gated crossings as viewed from a point 25 feet from centerline of nearest track in the center of whichever travel lane is nearest the direction along track being measured.

Table 2

Stopping Sight Distances

Highway Vehicle Speed	Distance (dH) Along Roadway from Crossing (ft)
0	n/a
5	50
10	70
15	105
20	135
25	180
30	225
35	280
40	340
45	410
50	490
55	570
60	660
65	760
70	865

Source: R-H Grade Crossing Handbook Table 36 (pp. 132-133)

Notes:

All calculated distances are rounded up to the next higher 5-foot increment.

Distances indicated are for 65-ft double bottom semi-tractor trailers on dry level pavements.

Stopping Sight Distance is to be measured on each roadway approach to crossing from stop bar.