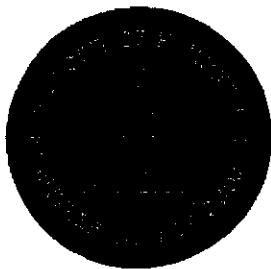


FILE



Founded 1791

Office of the City Manager

City of Hamilton, Ohio
One Renaissance Center
345 High Street, 7th Floor
Hamilton, Ohio 45011
Telephone 513 785-7002
FAX 513 785-7010
www.hamilton-city.org

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November 6, 2012

12-2934-RR-RCP

PUCO Docketing Division
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215-3793

PUCO

2012 NOV - 8 AM 8:54

RECEIVED-DOCKETING DIV

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to request approval from the PUCO to "Exempt" several at-grade railroad crossings, located within the City of Hamilton. The crossings are related to a railroad spur (Hamilton Belt Line) which served Smart Paper (formerly Champion Paper Company). Recently, the paper company permanently terminated business and the facility was purchased by the City of Hamilton. The City would like to get the crossings exempted to improve safety and traffic operations while minimizing traffic congestion.

Attached is an illustration showing the location of the Belt Line. There are US Rail at-grade crossings at the following locations: B Street (154-040Y), B Street (154-041F), Black Street (154-043U), and B Street (154-046P). In addition, there are CSX at-grade crossings at the following locations: Franklin Street (154-031A), Ross Avenue (154-032G), Main Street (154-034V), Cereal Avenue (154-035C), Eaton Avenue (154-037R), and Cleveland Avenue (154-039E). The DOT crossing numbers associated with this line are indicated in parenthesis.

The majority of the Belt Line owned by US Rail has already been removed. The at-grade crossings still remain but they are not accessible. Based upon discussions with US Rail they are not opposed to exempting the crossings.

Ultimately, the City of Hamilton would like to have the crossings removed and agrees that if future development at the former paper company facility has need for rail service, neither US Rail nor CSX will be held financially responsible for having the crossings reinstalled. Many of the crossings are in need of repair and removal will eliminate this ongoing maintenance cost and related safety issues.

This is to certify that the images appearing are an accurate and complete reproduction of a case file document delivered in the regular course of business
Technician fe Date Processed NOV 08 2012

The City of Hamilton appreciates assistance from the PUCO regarding this situation.
Please let me know if I can answer any questions regarding this information.

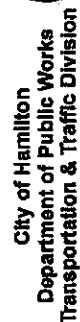
Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joshua A. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Joshua Smith
City Manager
City Of Hamilton
(513) 785-7002

Enclosure

C: Ms. Leah Dalton, Rail Division Chief, PUCO
Kris Butterfield, P.E., Transportation & Traffic Engineer, City of Hamilton



Project: Hamilton Belt Line OOS

Date Printed: October 11, 2012

