



1 APPEARANCES:

2

3 On Behalf of the Public Utilities Commission of  
4 Ohio:

5

6 Jay S. Agranoff  
7 Attorney Examiner  
8 180 East Broad Street  
9 Columbus, Ohio 43266-0573

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1 C O N T E N T S

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3 WITNESSES

4 Kris J. Butterfield, P.E. - Pg. 5

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7 E X H I B I T

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9	STAFF	DESCRIPTION	MARKED
10	No. 1	Staff Testimony	5

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## 1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MR. AGRANOFF: At this time the Public  
3 Utilities Commission of Ohio has assigned for a  
4 hearing at this time and place. Case Number:  
5 12-2936-RR-RCP which is in the matter of a request for  
6 an exemption by the City of Hamilton from stopping for  
7 school busses at certain highway, railroad grade  
8 crossings located within the City of Hamilton, Butler  
9 County, Ohio.

10 My name is Jay Agranoff and I'm  
11 assigned to preside over this particular case. And as  
12 I had explained off the record, the purpose of today's  
13 hearing is to receive public comment regarding the  
14 exemption request, and your testimony that would be  
15 provided today would be included as part of the record  
16 and brought before the Commission for their  
17 consideration.

18 As I also had explained prior to going  
19 on the record, the opportunity to provide sworn or  
20 unsworn testimony will be afforded to you. To the  
21 extent that you provide sworn testimony, the  
22 Commission certainly will be able to afford greater  
23 weight to that testimony in comparison to unsworn  
24 testimony.

25 And before we actually proceed to

1 testimony, I do want to note for the record the fact  
2 that there are no representatives from the Commission  
3 staff here today, nor are there any representatives  
4 here today from either of the two railroads that are  
5 involved in this particular proceeding. Those being  
6 CSX and US Rail Corporation.

7 I also would like to note for the  
8 record that the commission staff on November 28th of  
9 2012, filed their Staff Report in this particular  
10 proceeding, and I would mark the staff testimony as  
11 Staff Exhibit 1. And if there's no objection from any  
12 of the parties that are in attendance, I would have  
13 staff Exhibit 1 included as part of the record at this  
14 time.

15 (Staff Testimony, marked for  
16 identification as Staff Exhibit 1.)

17 MR. AGRANOFF: At this point in time we  
18 will provide the opportunity for the providing of  
19 testimony, and I believe Mr. Butterfield, you had said  
20 you were interested in providing testimony?

21 MR. BUTTERFIELD: Yes.

22 MR. AGRANOFF: If you could please  
23 raise your right hand.

24 Witness sworn by Mr. Agranoff)

25 Whereupon,

KRIS J. BUTTERFIELD, P.E.

1 of lawful age, a witness herein, having been duly  
2 sworn, as hereinafter certified, was examined and  
3 testified as follows:

4 MR. BUTTERFIELD: I do.

5 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you. Please  
6 proceed.

7 MR. BUTTERFIELD: Okay. Well, my name  
8 is Kris Butterfield and I'm the Transportation and  
9 Traffic Engineer for the City of Hamilton. I'm a  
10 registered professional engineer in the State of Ohio  
11 and I have over 30 years of experience in traffic  
12 engineering.

13 All of the crossings that we're  
14 referencing that we're requesting be exempted are  
15 associated with the belt line. And the belt line was  
16 originally constructed to provide rail service to the  
17 Champion Paper Company, which was subsequently  
18 purchased by Smart Paper.

19 During 2012, this year, Smart Paper  
20 permanently terminated business in the city, and the  
21 property was purchased by the City of Hamilton.

22 The city does not anticipate the need  
23 for rail service in the future. So, at this time,  
24 we're requesting that the at-grade crossings should be  
25 exempted there associated with the belt line.

1                   I mentioned prior to the meeting that  
2 the end of the belt line, it would be east of  
3 Cleveland Avenue; was owned by U.S. Rail. They've  
4 already eliminated their rail from Cleveland Avenue  
5 back to where the belt line terminates. The only  
6 thing that's left in that area are the at-grade  
7 crossings, so you can't even get to them now.

8                   We want the crossings completely  
9 removed, but at this time we're just requesting the  
10 exemption.

11                  It's anticipated that the exemption  
12 will improve safety and traffic operations. That's  
13 the reason for our request right now. We feel that  
14 there will be rear-end accidents associated with  
15 vehicles stopping unnecessarily at the tracks, and  
16 it'll also increase capacity of the roadways to  
17 improve traffic flow at the crossings. That's really  
18 all that I have.

19                  MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you. And just so  
20 that the record is clear, you need to state your full  
21 name and address?

22                  MR. BUTTERFIELD: Okay. My full name  
23 is Kris Butterfield and my work address here is City  
24 of Hamilton, 345 High Street, Hamilton, Ohio 45011.

25                  MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you.

1 MR. BUTTERFIELD: Um-hum.

2 MR. AGRANOFF: Is there anybody else in  
3 attendance that would be interested in testifying  
4 today? There being none, this proceeding is  
5 concluded. Thank you.

6 - - -  
(At 1:20 p.m., the proceedings adjourned)

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## 1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 STATE OF OHIO :  
: SS:  
3 COUNTY OF HAMILTON:

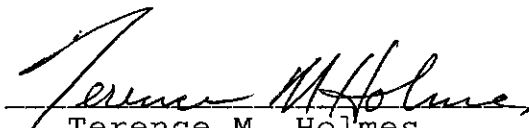
4

5 I, Terence M. Holmes, a duly qualified  
6 and commissioned notary public within and for the  
7 State of Ohio, do hereby certify that at the time and  
8 place stated herein, and in the presence of the  
9 persons named, I recorded in stenotypy and tape  
10 recorded the proceedings of the within-captioned  
11 matter, and that the foregoing pages constitute a  
12 true, correct and complete transcript of the said  
13 proceedings.

14 I further certify that I am not  
15 counsel, attorney, relative or employee of any of the  
16 parties hereto, or their counsel, nor am I financially  
17 re in any way interested in the within action.

18 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set  
19 my hand at Cincinnati, Ohio, the 20th day of December,  
20 2012.

21 My Commission Expires:  
22 July 28, 2017

  
Terence M. Holmes  
Notary Public -State of Ohio

23

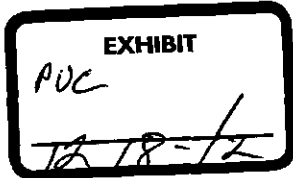
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FILE

Staff Ex. 1

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**Public Utilities  
Commission of Ohio**

# Memo

**To:** Docketing Division  
**From:** George Martin, Grade Crossing Planner, Rail Division  
**Re:** PUCO Case No. 12-2936-RR-RCP  
**Date:** November 28, 2012

Please docket the attached staff report in the above case.

RECEIVED-DOCKETING DIV  
2012 NOV 28 PM 2:31  
PUCO

**A report by the Staff of the  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio**

**Request of the City of Hamilton for Exempt Crossing Status  
Case Number 12-2936-RR-RCP**

**November 28, 2012**

## INTRODUCTION

### Rail Division

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) works with local highway authorities and communities to provide safety for the citizens of Ohio at highway-railroad grade crossings.

The PUCO has the statutory authority to regulate and promote the welfare and safety of railroad employees and the traveling public pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 4905.471; and

The PUCO has the authority to close public at grade crossings pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 4907.474 and 4907.475. The sections set forth a variety of factors to be considered by the Commission in determining whether there is a demonstrable need for any public grade crossing to exist and whether any such crossing could be closed to vehicular traffic, pedestrian traffic, or both and the travel over the grade crossing diverted to other grade crossings.

The PUCO is responsible for evaluating public highway-railroad grade crossings to determine the need for upgrading the warning devices and apportioning the cost thereof pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 4907.471.

The PUCO has the authority under Ohio Revised Code Section 4511.63 (B) to declare a grade crossing exempt, whereby vehicles normally required to stop at a grade crossing under that title and Code of Federal Regulations Title 49, 392.10 would be able to proceed through the crossing without stopping.

The PUCO enforces all aspects of the Federal Railroad Administration regulations through inspections and evaluations of Ohio's public highway-railroad grade crossings.

**I.     DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANT**

Hamilton is a city in Butler County, Ohio, United States. It is part of the Cincinnati metropolitan area.

## **II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

On June 14, 2012, under PUCO Case No. 12-2936-RR-RCP, the City of Hamilton filed a request for exempt crossing status under Ohio Revised Code section 4511.63 for the US Rail and CSX Transportation crossings that comprise the Hamilton Belt Line. These crossings are:

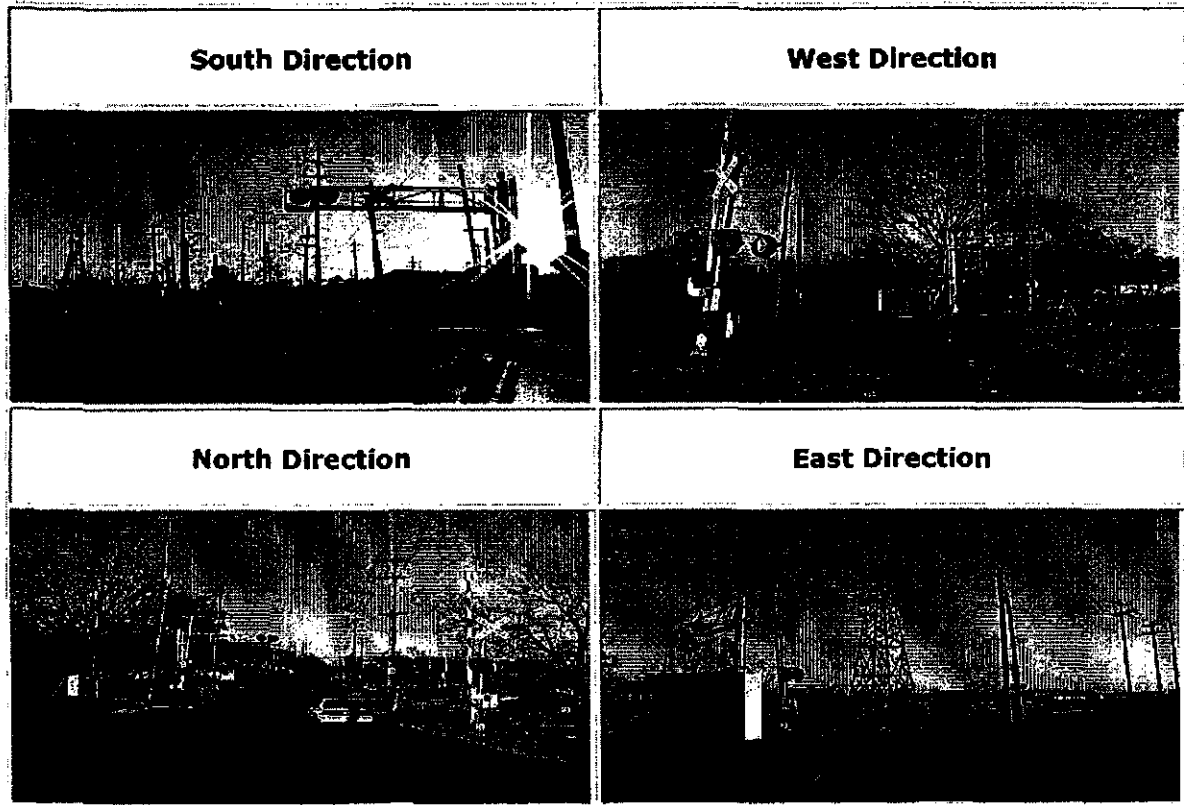
### **US Rail**

B Street, 154040Y  
B Street, 154041F  
Black Street, 154043U  
B Street, 154046P

### **CSX**

Franklin Street, 154031A  
Ross Avenue, 154032G  
Main Street, 154034V  
Cereal Avenue, 154035C  
Eaton Avenue, 154037R  
Cleveland Avenue, 154039E

III. Photo's from PUCO RRIS database



Site Information	
AARDOT:	154040Y
AARDOT Source:	Database
Adj. AARDOT:	
Adj. AARDOT Source:	Field
Survey Site ID:	BUT883
Init. Agency for Change:	State

<b>Reason for Change:</b>	Closed Crossing
<b>Effective Date:</b>	Oct 12 2012 12:00AM
<b>Railroad Information</b>	
<b>Operating RR:</b>	U.S. Rail Corporation
<b>Division:</b>	
<b>Sub-Division:</b>	
<b>Branch/Line Name:</b>	
<b>Milepost:</b>	2.28
<b>Railroad ID:</b>	
<b>Nearest Time Table Station:</b>	HAMILTON
<b>Parent RR Company:</b>	
<b>Crossing Owner:</b>	CSX
<b>Location and Classification Information</b>	
<b>County:</b>	BUTLER
<b>(Nearest) City:</b>	HAMILTON
<b>Street:</b>	N B ST
<b>Highway and SLM:</b>	
<b>High Speed Corridor:</b>	
<b>County Map Ref. Number:</b>	9
<b>ODOT NLF ID:</b>	MBUTMR00403**C
<b>Latitude:</b>	39.4130593
<b>Longitude:</b>	-84.5581209
<b>Elevation (ft):</b>	586.7476
<b>Crossing Type:</b>	Public
<b>Position:</b>	At-Grade
<b>Emergency Contact:</b>	
<b>Railroad Contact:</b>	
<b>State Contact:</b>	
<b>LHA:</b>	CITY OF HAMILTON
<b>LHA2:</b>	



<b>Dev. Type:</b>	Open Space
<b>Crossing Angle:</b>	30-59 Degrees
<b>Main Tracks:</b>	1
<b>Other Tracks:</b>	0
<b>Lanes:</b>	2
<b>Warning Devices</b>	
<b>Crossbucks, Standard:</b>	3
<b>Crossbucks, Buckeye:</b>	0
<b>Lights, Mast Mounted:</b>	2
<b>Lights, Cantilevered:</b>	1
<b>Lights, Other:</b>	0
<b>Gates:</b>	2
<b>Traffic Information</b>	
<b>Day Thru Trains:</b>	0
<b>Day Switching Trains:</b>	4
<b>Night Thru Trains:</b>	0
<b>Night Switch Trains:</b>	2
<b>Date of Train Count:</b>	
<b>Highway AADT:</b>	11150
<b>Date of AADT:</b>	2003

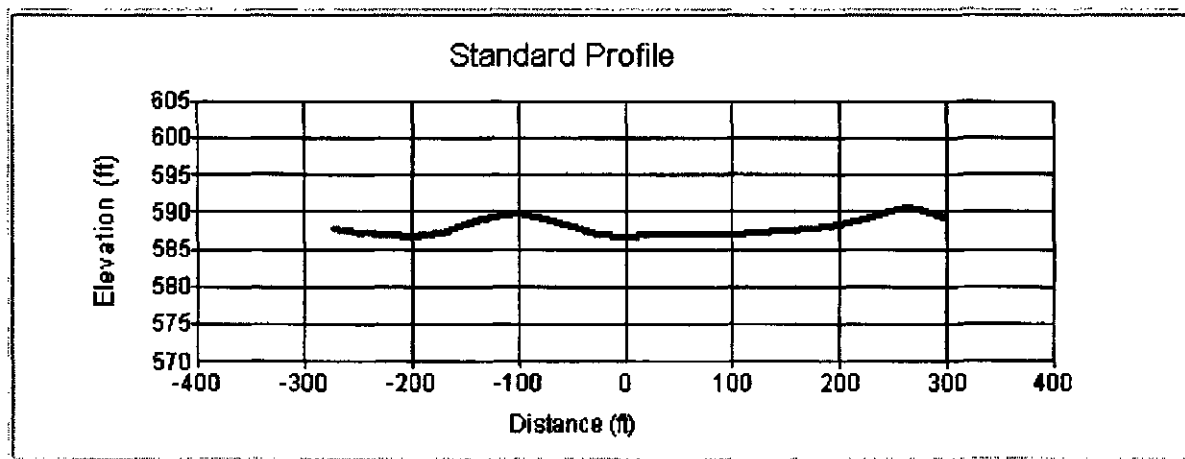
<b>Highway Information</b>	
<b>Distance to Nearest Intersection:</b>	25
<b>Type of Intersection:</b>	Unknown
<b>Number of HW-HW Intersections:</b>	1

<b>Highway 1:</b>	
<b>Traffic Light:</b>	NO

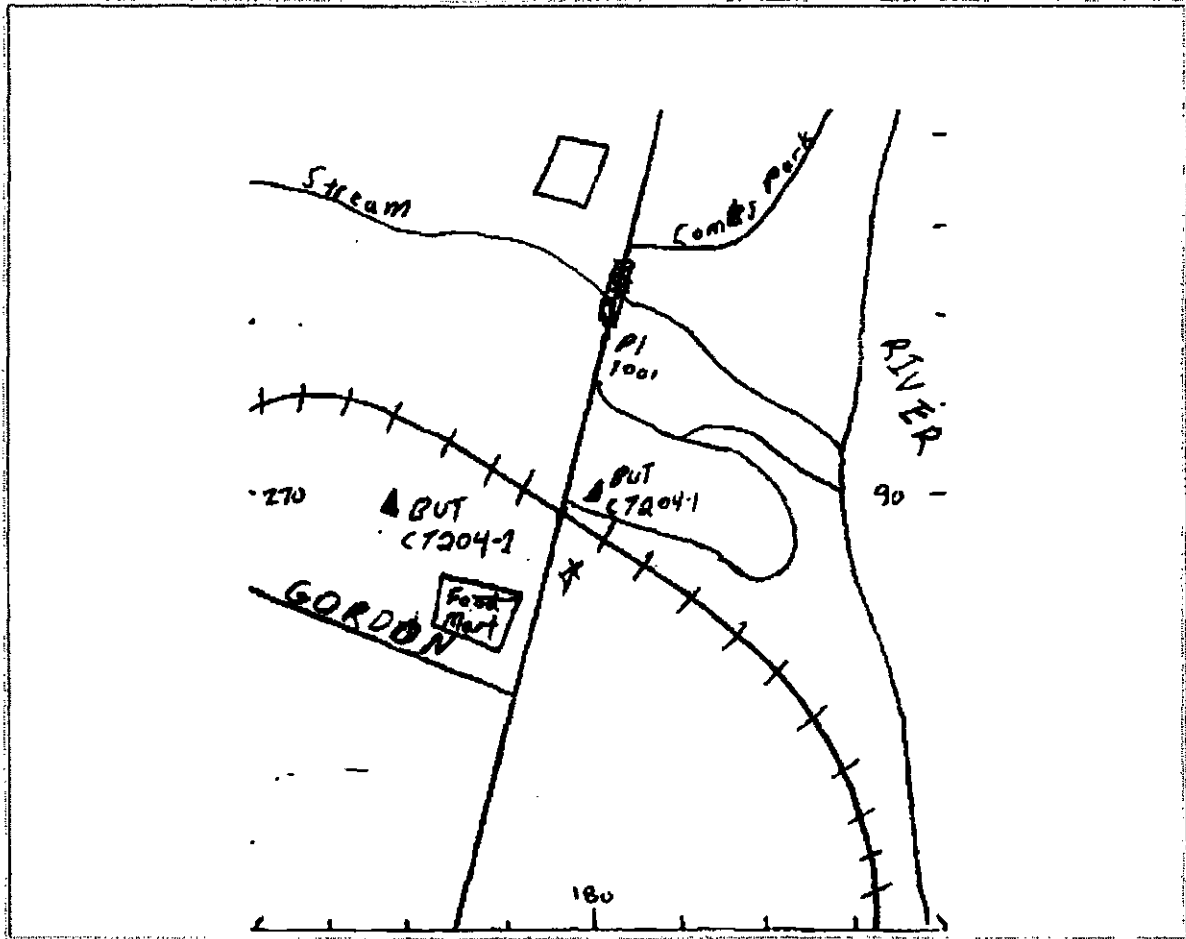
<b>Flashing Light:</b>	NO
<b>Stop Sign:</b>	NO
<b>Yield Sign:</b>	NO
<b>Distance from Tie to Stop Bar:</b>	142
<b>DO NOT STOP ON TRACK(S) Sign:</b>	NO

### Site Comments

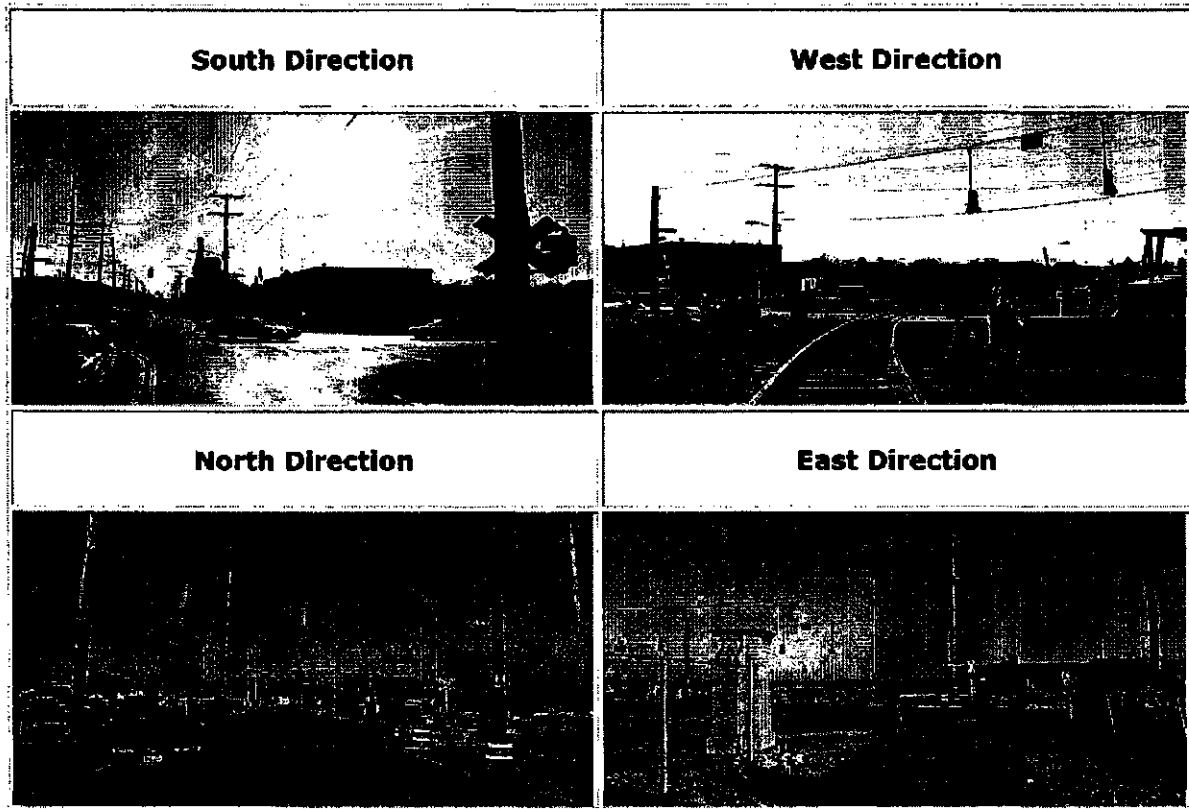
Track removed 10/11/12. ltd



# Site Sketch



Record ID: 7107



Site Information	
AARDOT:	154041F
AARDOT Source:	Field
Adj. AARDOT:	
Adj. AARDOT Source:	Field
Survey Site ID:	BUT881
Init. Agency for Change:	State
Reason for Change:	Closed Crossing
Effective Date:	Oct 12 2012 12:00AM

Railroad Information	
Operating RR:	U.S. Rail Corporation
Division:	
Sub-Division:	
Branch/Line Name:	
Milepost:	0
Railroad ID:	7633
Nearest Time Table Station:	BELT JUNCTION
Parent RR Company:	
Crossing Owner:	
Location and Classification Information	
County:	BUTLER
(Nearest) City:	HAMILTON
Street:	N B ST
Highway and SLM:	
High Speed Corridor:	
County Map Ref. Number:	9
ODOT NLF ID:	MBUTMR00403**C
Latitude:	39.4109534
Longitude:	-84.5596531
Elevation (ft):	587.9066
Crossing Type:	Public
Position:	At-Grade
Emergency Contact:	
Railroad Contact:	
State Contact:	
LHA:	CITY OF HAMILTON
LHA2:	
Dev. Type:	Industrial
Crossing Angle:	30-59 Degrees

<b>Main Tracks:</b>	1
<b>Other Tracks:</b>	1
<b>Lanes:</b>	2
<b>Warning Devices</b>	
<b>Crossbucks, Standard:</b>	3
<b>Crossbucks, Buckeye:</b>	0
<b>Lights, Mast Mounted:</b>	0
<b>Lights, Cantilevered:</b>	0
<b>Lights, Other:</b>	0
<b>Gates:</b>	0
<b>Traffic Information</b>	
<b>Day Thru Trains:</b>	0
<b>Day Switching Trains:</b>	8
<b>Night Thru Trains:</b>	0
<b>Night Switch Trains:</b>	7
<b>Date of Train Count:</b>	Apr 14 2010 12:00AM
<b>Highway AADT:</b>	14,100
<b>Date of AADT:</b>	2010

<b>Highway Information</b>	
<b>Distance to Nearest Intersection:</b>	30
<b>Type of Intersection:</b>	Highway
<b>Number of HW-HW Intersections:</b>	1

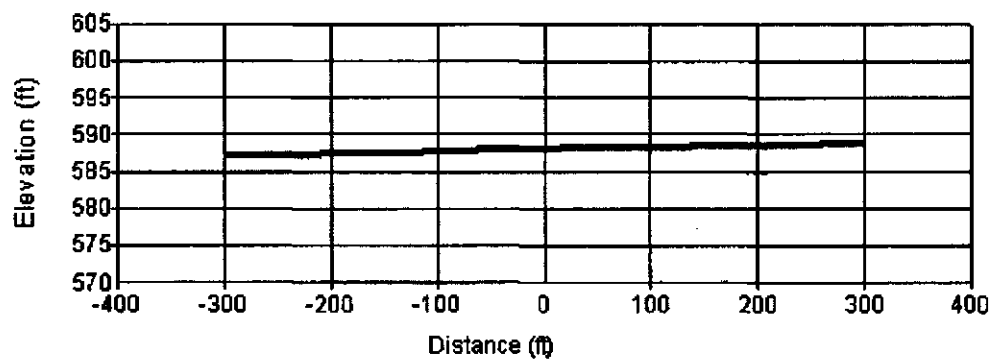
<b>Highway 1:</b>	
<b>Traffic Light:</b>	YES
<b>Flashing Light:</b>	NO
<b>Stop Sign:</b>	YES

<b>Yield Sign:</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Distance from Tie to Center of Intersection:</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>DO NOT STOP ON TRACK(S) Sign:</b>	<b>NO</b>

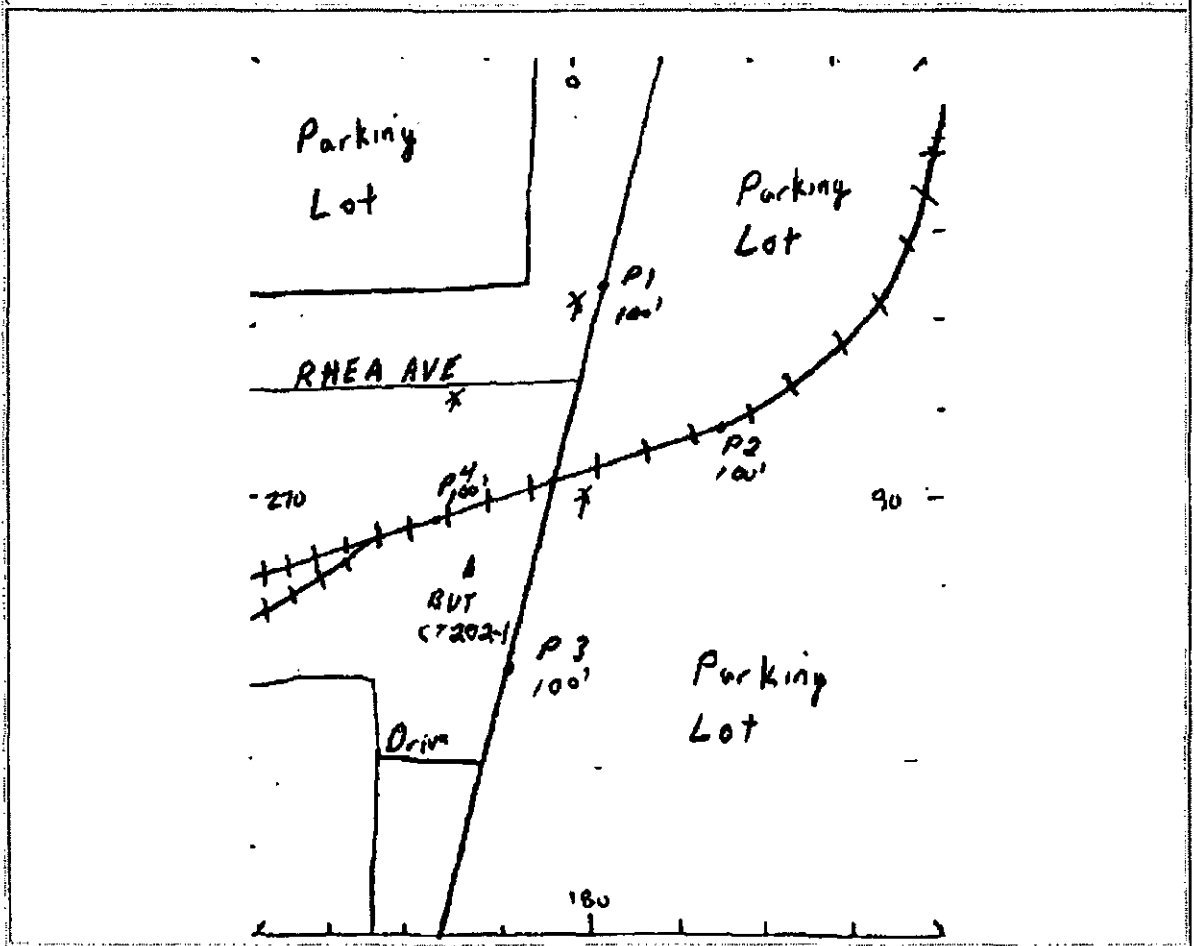
### Site Comments

Track removed. 10/12/12. ltd

### Standard Profile

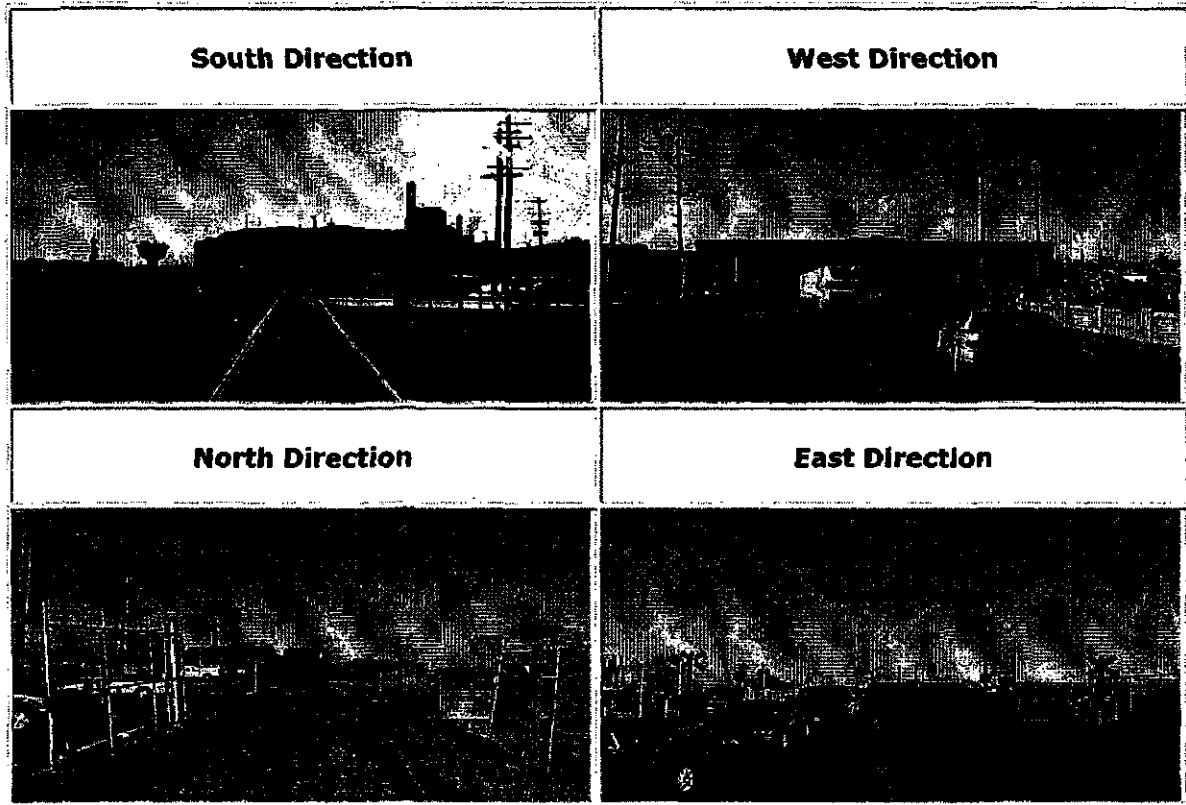


# Site Sketch





Record ID: 4602



Site Information	
AARDOT:	154043U
AARDOT Source:	Railroad
Adj. AARDOT:	
Adj. AARDOT Source:	Railroad
Survey Site ID:	BUT882
Init. Agency for Change:	Railroad

<b>Reason for Change:</b>	Closed Crossing
<b>Effective Date:</b>	Oct 12 2012 12:00AM
<b>Railroad Information</b>	
<b>Operating RR:</b>	U.S. Rail Corporation
<b>Division:</b>	
<b>Sub-Division:</b>	HAMILTON BELT
<b>Branch/Line Name:</b>	
<b>Milepost:</b>	2.51
<b>Railroad ID:</b>	
<b>Nearest Time Table Station:</b>	BELT JUNCTION
<b>Parent RR Company:</b>	
<b>Crossing Owner:</b>	
<b>Location and Classification Information</b>	
<b>County:</b>	BUTLER
<b>(Nearest) City:</b>	HAMILTON
<b>Street:</b>	BLACK ST
<b>Highway and SLM:</b>	
<b>High Speed Corridor:</b>	
<b>County Map Ref. Number:</b>	9
<b>ODOT NLF ID:</b>	MBUTMR00164**C
<b>Latitude:</b>	39.410063
<b>Longitude:</b>	-84.5597457
<b>Elevation (ft):</b>	590.1422
<b>Crossing Type:</b>	Public
<b>Position:</b>	At-Grade
<b>Emergency Contact:</b>	
<b>Railroad Contact:</b>	
<b>State Contact:</b>	
<b>LHA:</b>	CITY OF HAMILTON
<b>LHA2:</b>	

<b>Dev. Type:</b>	Industrial
<b>Crossing Angle:</b>	60-90 Degrees
<b>Main Tracks:</b>	1
<b>Other Tracks:</b>	0
<b>Lanes:</b>	2

#### Warning Devices

<b>Crossbucks, Standard:</b>	2
<b>Crossbucks, Buckeye:</b>	0
<b>Lights, Mast Mounted:</b>	0
<b>Lights, Cantilevered:</b>	0
<b>Lights, Other:</b>	0
<b>Gates:</b>	0

#### Traffic Information

<b>Day Thru Trains:</b>	0
<b>Day Switching Trains:</b>	4
<b>Night Thru Trains:</b>	0
<b>Night Switch Trains:</b>	2
<b>Date of Train Count:</b>	Mar 2 2011 12:00AM
<b>Highway AADT:</b>	10720
<b>Date of AADT:</b>	2007

#### Highway Information

<b>Distance to Nearest Intersection:</b>	150
<b>Type of Intersection:</b>	Highway
<b>Number of HW-HW Intersections:</b>	1

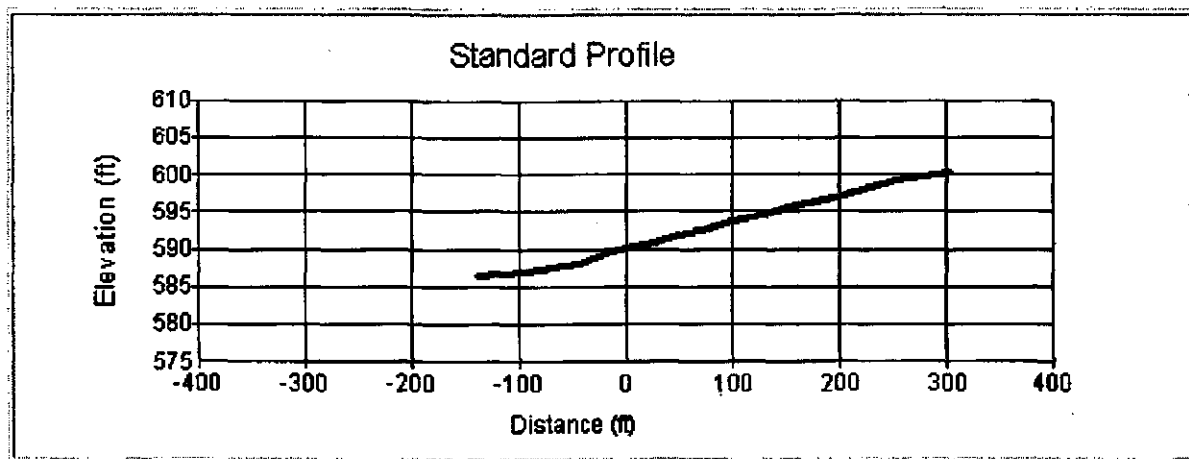
#### Highway 1:

<b>Traffic Light:</b>	YES
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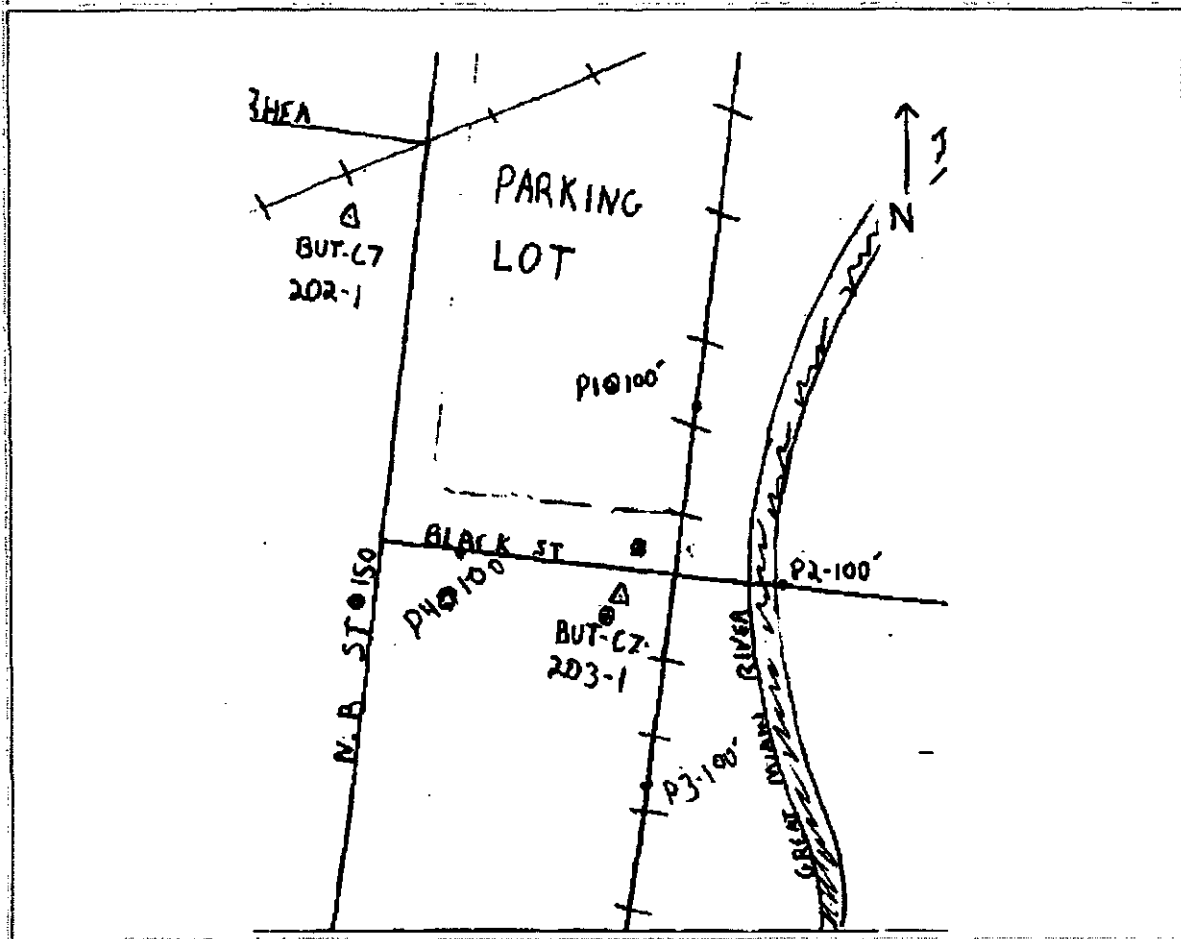
<b>Flashing Light:</b>	NO
<b>Stop Sign:</b>	NO
<b>Yield Sign:</b>	NO
<b>Distance from Tie to Stop Bar:</b>	133
<b>DO NOT STOP ON TRACK(S) Sign:</b>	NO

### Site Comments

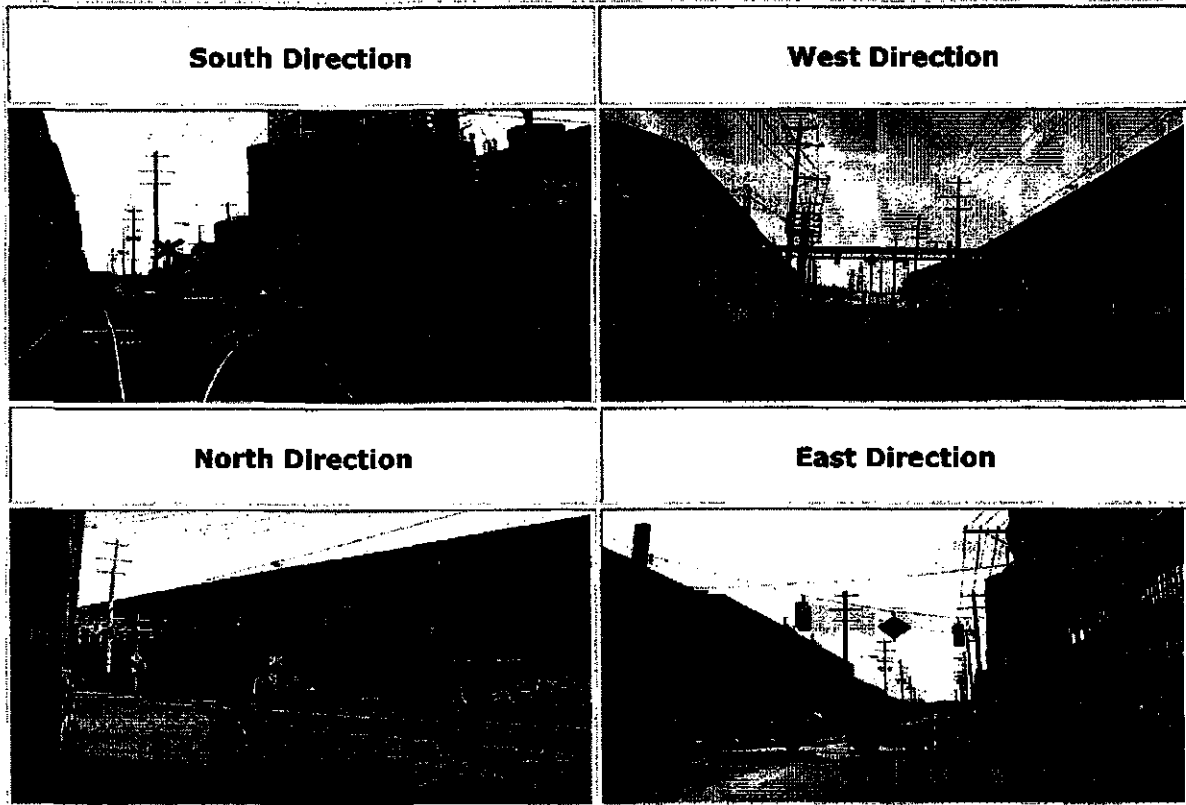
track removed 10/12/12.ltd



# Site Sketch



Record ID: 4603



Site Information	
AARDOT:	154046P
AARDOT Source:	Field
Adj. AARDOT:	
Adj. AARDOT Source:	Field
Survey Site ID:	BUT880
Init. Agency for Change:	State
Reason for Change:	Closed Crossing

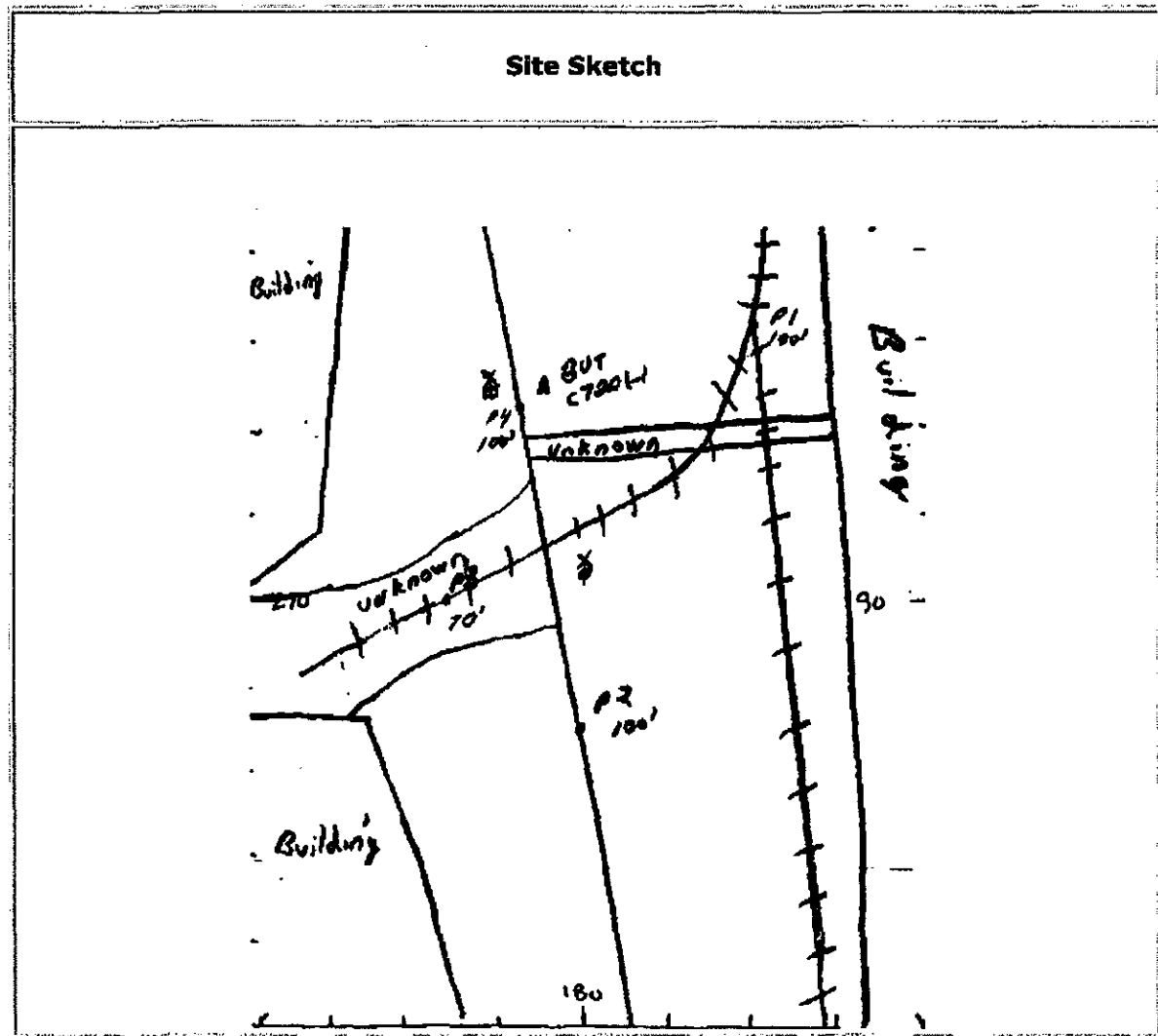
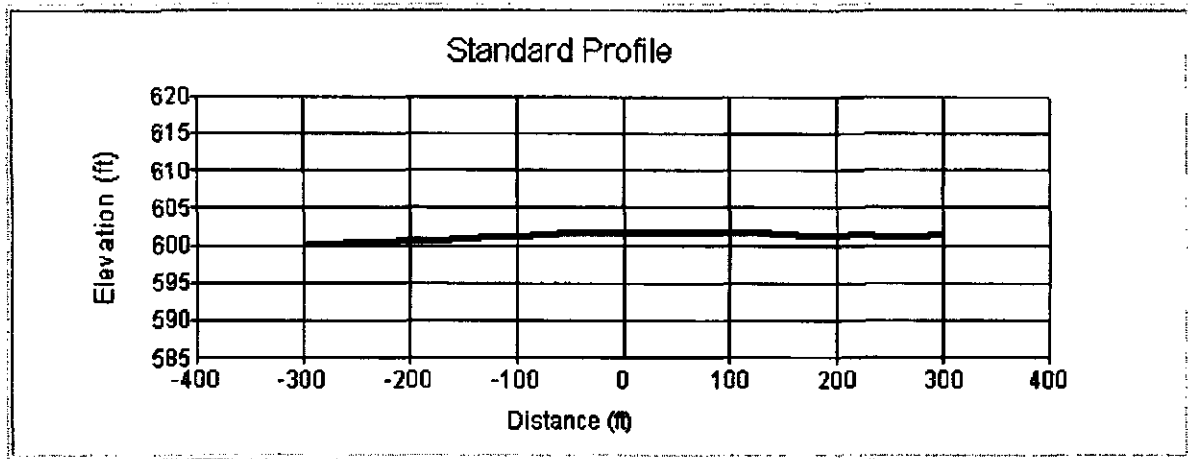
<b>Effective Date:</b>	Oct 12 2012 12:00AM
<b>Railroad Information</b>	
<b>Operating RR:</b>	U.S. Rail Corporation
<b>Division:</b>	
<b>Sub-Division:</b>	
<b>Branch/Line Name:</b>	
<b>Milepost:</b>	0
<b>Railroad ID:</b>	7635
<b>Nearest Time Table Station:</b>	BELT JUNCTION
<b>Parent RR Company:</b>	
<b>Crossing Owner:</b>	
<b>Location and Classification Information</b>	
<b>County:</b>	BUTLER
<b>(Nearest) City:</b>	HAMILTON
<b>Street:</b>	N B ST
<b>Highway and SLM:</b>	
<b>High Speed Corridor:</b>	
<b>County Map Ref. Number:</b>	9
<b>ODOT NLF ID:</b>	MBUTMR00403**C
<b>Latitude:</b>	39.4083354
<b>Longitude:</b>	-84.5615211
<b>Elevation (ft):</b>	601.6373
<b>Crossing Type:</b>	Public
<b>Position:</b>	At-Grade
<b>Emergency Contact:</b>	
<b>Railroad Contact:</b>	
<b>State Contact:</b>	
<b>LHA:</b>	CITY OF HAMILTON
<b>LHA2:</b>	
<b>Dev. Type:</b>	Industrial

<b>Crossing Angle:</b>	30-59 Degrees
<b>Main Tracks:</b>	0
<b>Other Tracks:</b>	1
<b>Lanes:</b>	2
<b>Warning Devices</b>	
<b>Crossbucks, Standard:</b>	0
<b>Crossbucks, Buckeye:</b>	2
<b>Lights, Mast Mounted:</b>	0
<b>Lights, Cantilevered:</b>	0
<b>Lights, Other:</b>	0
<b>Gates:</b>	0
<b>Traffic Information</b>	
<b>Day Thru Trains:</b>	0
<b>Day Switching Trains:</b>	0
<b>Night Thru Trains:</b>	0
<b>Night Switch Trains:</b>	0
<b>Date of Train Count:</b>	Jul 21 2011 12:00AM
<b>Highway AADT:</b>	11150
<b>Date of AADT:</b>	2003

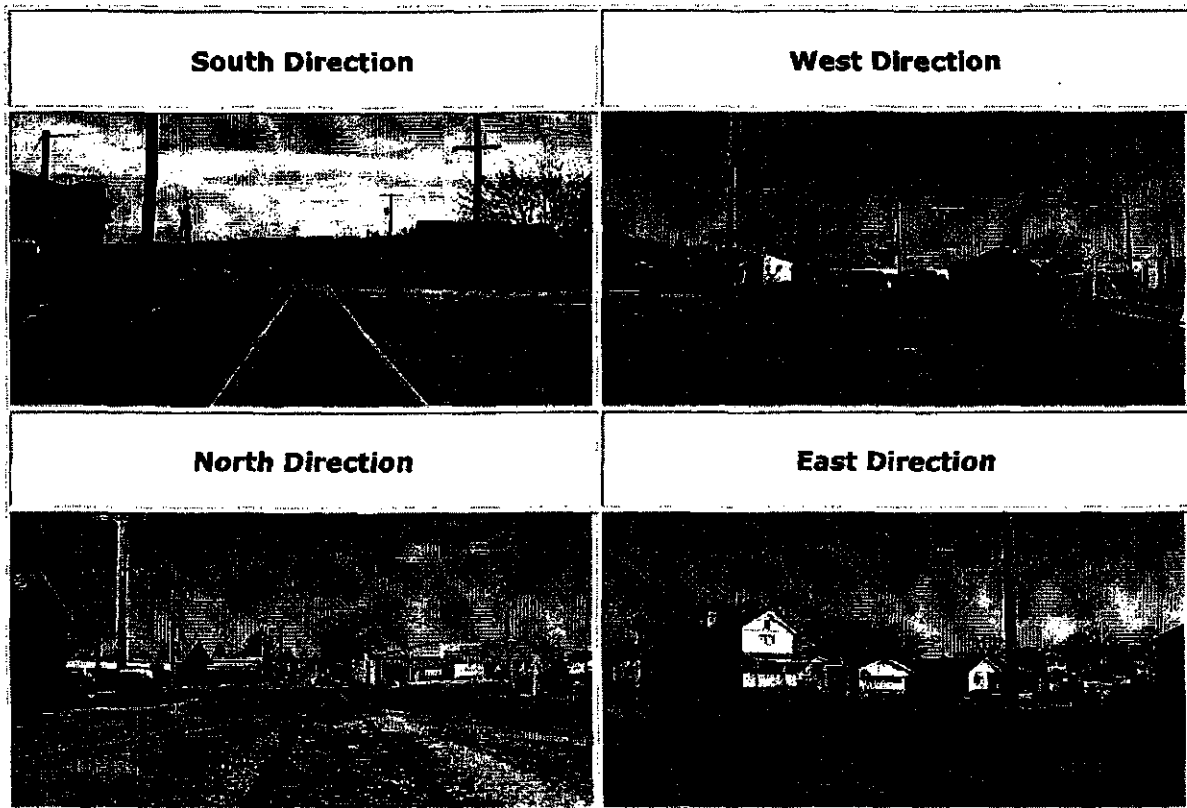
<b>Highway Information</b>	
<b>Distance to Nearest Intersection:</b>	0
<b>Type of Intersection:</b>	Unknown
<b>Number of HW-HW Intersections:</b>	0

<b>Site Comments</b>	
track removed	





Record ID: 4616



Site Information	
AARDOT:	154031A
AARDOT Source:	Field
Adj. AARDOT:	
Adj. AARDOT Source:	Field
Survey Site ID:	BUT870
Init. Agency for Change:	State
Reason for Change:	Updated Record

<b>Effective Date:</b>	Mar 4 2010 12:00AM
<b>Railroad Information</b>	
<b>Operating RR:</b>	CSX Transportation, Inc.
<b>Division:</b>	LOUISVILLE
<b>Sub-Division:</b>	HAMILTON BELT
<b>Branch/Line Name:</b>	
<b>Milepost:</b>	0.23
<b>Railroad ID:</b>	BDA
<b>Nearest Time Table Station:</b>	BELT JUNCTION
<b>Parent RR Company:</b>	CSX
<b>Crossing Owner:</b>	CSX
<b>Location and Classification Information</b>	
<b>County:</b>	BUTLER
<b>(Nearest) City:</b>	HAMILTON
<b>Street:</b>	FRANKLIN ST
<b>Highway and SLM:</b>	
<b>High Speed Corridor:</b>	
<b>County Map Ref. Number:</b>	9
<b>ODOT NLF ID:</b>	MBUTMR00274**C
<b>Latitude:</b>	39.4101619
<b>Longitude:</b>	-84.5817246
<b>Elevation (ft):</b>	649.4475
<b>Crossing Type:</b>	Public
<b>Position:</b>	At-Grade
<b>Emergency Contact:</b>	
<b>Railroad Contact:</b>	
<b>State Contact:</b>	
<b>LHA:</b>	CITY OF HAMILTON
<b>LHA2:</b>	
<b>Dev. Type:</b>	Residential

<b>Crossing Angle:</b>	30-59 Degrees
<b>Main Tracks:</b>	1
<b>Other Tracks:</b>	0
<b>Lanes:</b>	2
<b>Warning Devices</b>	
<b>Crossbucks, Standard:</b>	3
<b>Crossbucks, Buckeye:</b>	0
<b>Lights, Mast Mounted:</b>	0
<b>Lights, Cantilevered:</b>	0
<b>Lights, Other:</b>	0
<b>Gates:</b>	0
<b>Traffic Information</b>	
<b>Day Thru Trains:</b>	0
<b>Day Switching Trains:</b>	0
<b>Night Thru Trains:</b>	0
<b>Night Switch Trains:</b>	0
<b>Date of Train Count:</b>	Mar 4 2010 12:00AM
<b>Highway AADT:</b>	1260
<b>Date of AADT:</b>	2009

<b>Highway Information</b>	
<b>Distance to Nearest Intersection:</b>	0
<b>Type of Intersection:</b>	Highway
<b>Number of HW-HW Intersections:</b>	2

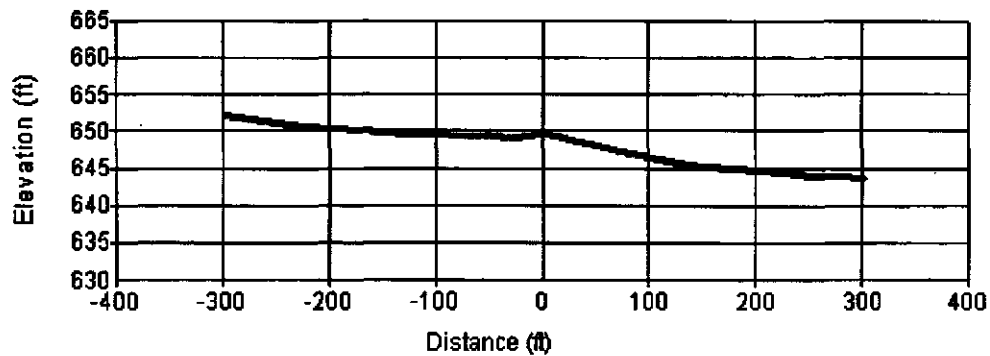
<b>Highway 1:</b>		<b>Highway 2:</b>	
<b>Traffic Light:</b>	NO	<b>Traffic Light:</b>	NO
<b>Flashing Light:</b>	NO	<b>Flashing Light:</b>	NO

<b>Stop Sign:</b>	YES	<b>Stop Sign:</b>	YES
<b>Yield Sign:</b>	NO	<b>Yield Sign:</b>	NO
<b>Distance from Tie to Center of Intersection:</b>	0	<b>Distance from Tie to Center of Intersection:</b>	170
<b>DO NOT STOP ON TRACK(S) Sign:</b>	NO	<b>DO NOT STOP ON TRACK(S) Sign:</b>	NO

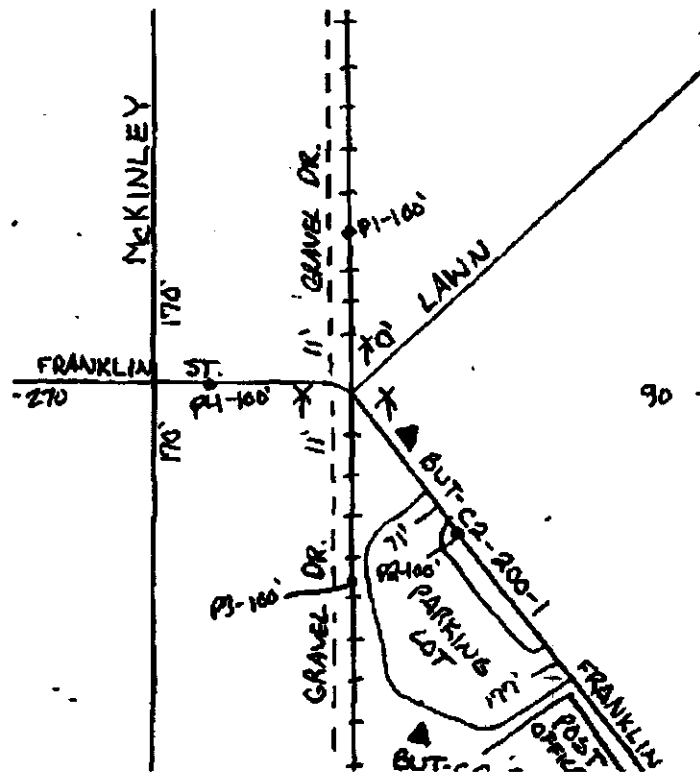
### Site Comments

From RR 3-4-10: less than 1 train per day. CMS

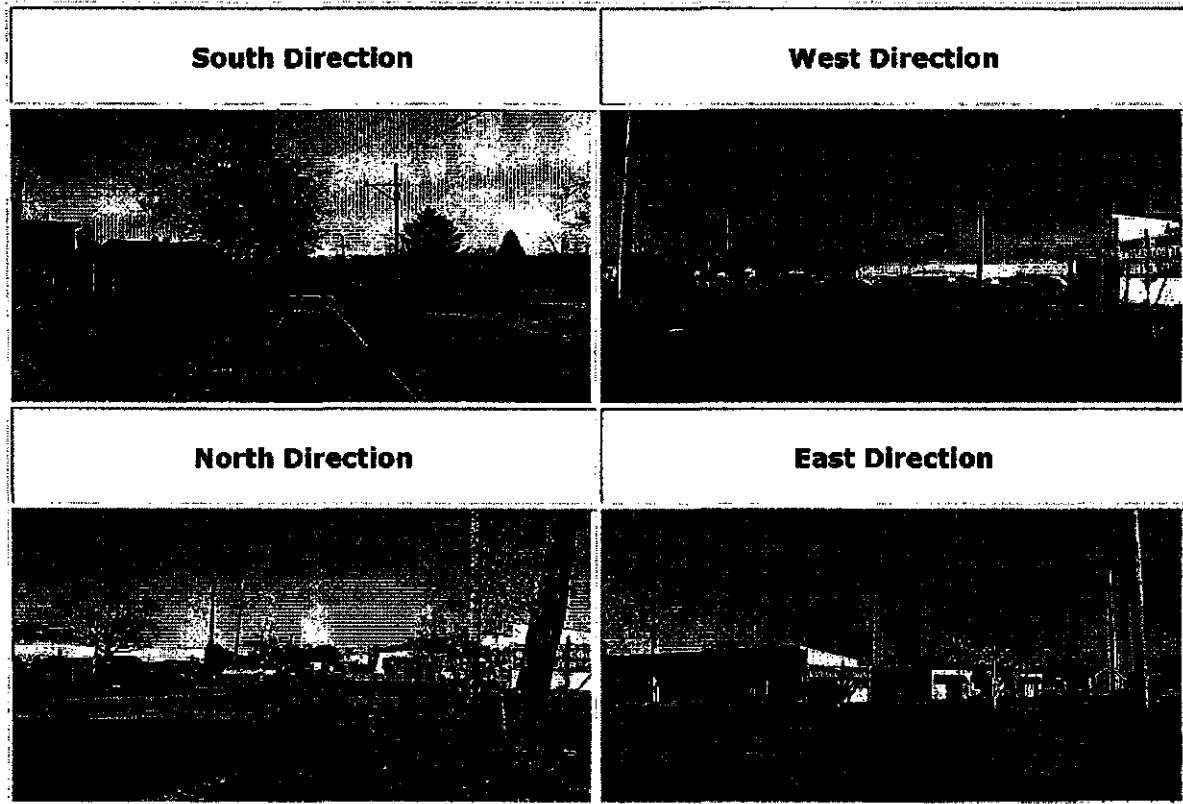
### Standard Profile



# Site Sketch



Record ID: 4601



Site Information	
AARDOT:	154032G
AARDOT Source:	Field
Adj. AARDOT:	
Adj. AARDOT Source:	Field
Survey Site ID:	BUT871
Init. Agency for Change:	State
Reason for Change:	Updated Record
Effective Date:	Mar 4 2010 12:00AM

Railroad Information	
Operating RR:	CSX Transportation, Inc.
Division:	LOUISVILLE
Sub-Division:	HAMILTONBELT
Branch/Line Name:	HAMILTON BELT
Milepost:	0.32
Railroad ID:	BDA
Nearest Time Table Station:	BELT JUNCTION
Parent RR Company:	CSX
Crossing Owner:	CSX
Location and Classification Information	
County:	BUTLER
(Nearest) City:	HAMILTON
Street:	ROSS AVE
Highway and SLM:	
High Speed Corridor:	
County Map Ref. Number:	9
ODOT NLF ID:	MBUTMR00486**C
Latitude:	39.4118124
Longitude:	-84.5817394
Elevation (ft):	652.5646
Crossing Type:	Public
Position:	At-Grade
Emergency Contact:	
Railroad Contact:	
State Contact:	
LHA:	CITY OF HAMILTON
LHA2:	
Dev. Type:	Commercial
Crossing Angle:	30-59 Degrees



<b>Main Tracks:</b>	1
<b>Other Tracks:</b>	0
<b>Lanes:</b>	2
<b>Warning Devices</b>	
<b>Crossbucks, Standard:</b>	0
<b>Crossbucks, Buckeye:</b>	2
<b>Lights, Mast Mounted:</b>	0
<b>Lights, Cantilevered:</b>	0
<b>Lights, Other:</b>	0
<b>Gates:</b>	0
<b>Traffic Information</b>	
<b>Day Thru Trains:</b>	0
<b>Day Switching Trains:</b>	0
<b>Night Thru Trains:</b>	0
<b>Night Switch Trains:</b>	0
<b>Date of Train Count:</b>	Mar 4 2010 12:00AM
<b>Highway AADT:</b>	990
<b>Date of AADT:</b>	2009

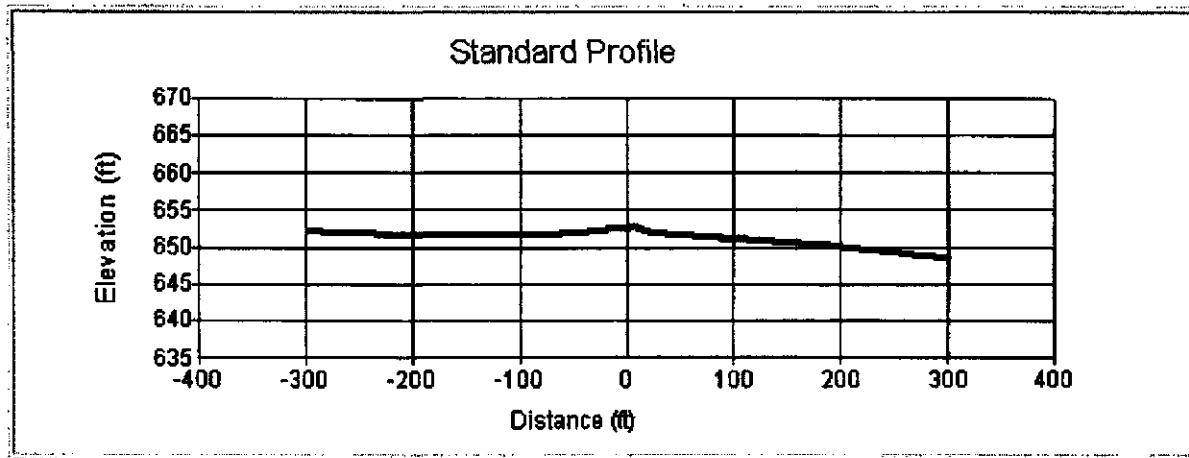
<b>Highway Information</b>	
<b>Distance to Nearest Intersection:</b>	6
<b>Type of Intersection:</b>	Commercial Drive
<b>Number of HW-HW Intersections:</b>	1

<b>Highway 1:</b>	
<b>Traffic Light:</b>	NO
<b>Flashing Light:</b>	NO
<b>Stop Sign:</b>	YES

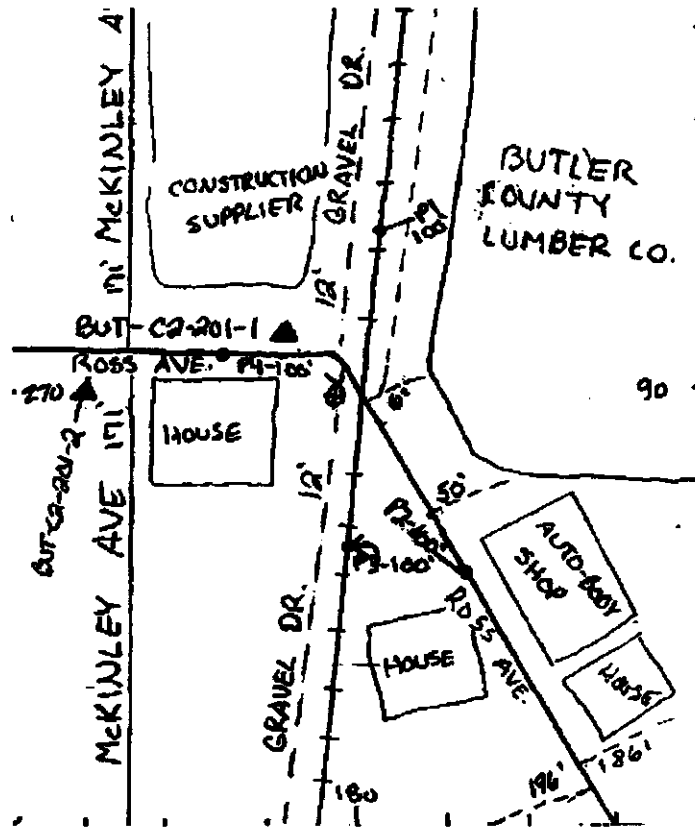
<b>Yield Sign:</b>	NO
<b>Distance from Tie to Center of Intersection:</b>	171
<b>DO NOT STOP ON TRACK(S) Sign:</b>	NO

### Site Comments

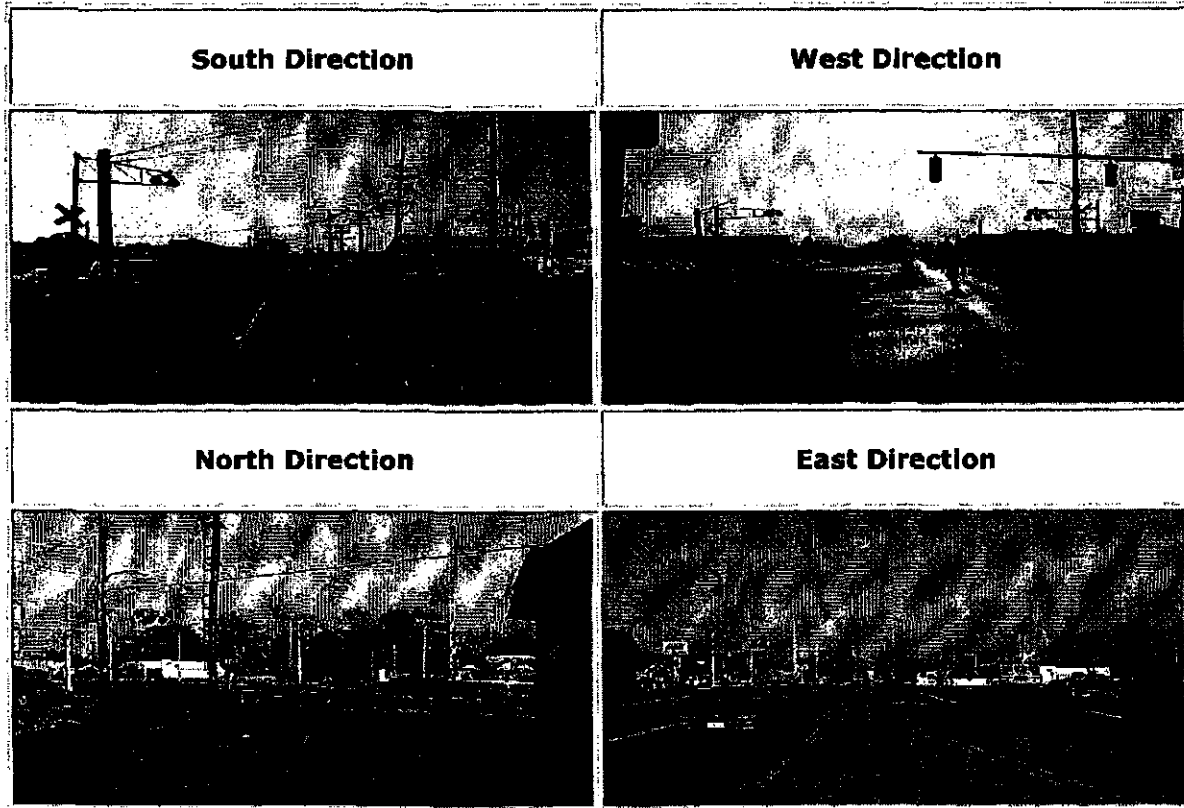
Information from RR 3-4-10: less than 1 train per day. CMS



# Site Sketch



Record ID: 4396



Site Information	
AARDOT:	154034V
AARDOT Source:	Field
Adj. AARDOT:	
Adj. AARDOT Source:	Field
Survey Site ID:	BUT885
Init. Agency for Change:	State

<b>Reason for Change:</b>	Updated Record
<b>Effective Date:</b>	Mar 4 2010 12:00AM
<b>Railroad Information</b>	
<b>Operating RR:</b>	CSX Transportation, Inc.
<b>Division:</b>	LOUISVILLE
<b>Sub-Division:</b>	HAMILTON BELT
<b>Branch/Line Name:</b>	
<b>Milepost:</b>	0.46
<b>Railroad ID:</b>	BDA
<b>Nearest Time Table Station:</b>	BELT JUNCTION
<b>Parent RR Company:</b>	CSX
<b>Crossing Owner:</b>	CSX
<b>Location and Classification Information</b>	
<b>County:</b>	BUTLER
<b>(Nearest) City:</b>	HAMILTON
<b>Street:</b>	MAIN ST
<b>Highway and SLM:</b>	SR177
<b>High Speed Corridor:</b>	
<b>County Map Ref. Number:</b>	9
<b>ODOT NLF ID:</b>	SBUTSR00177**C
<b>Latitude:</b>	39.4136301
<b>Longitude:</b>	-84.5817431
<b>Elevation (ft):</b>	641.3267
<b>Crossing Type:</b>	Public
<b>Position:</b>	At-Grade
<b>Emergency Contact:</b>	
<b>Railroad Contact:</b>	
<b>State Contact:</b>	
<b>LHA:</b>	CITY OF HAMILTON
<b>LHA2:</b>	

<b>Dev. Type:</b>	Commercial
<b>Crossing Angle:</b>	30-59 Degrees
<b>Main Tracks:</b>	1
<b>Other Tracks:</b>	0
<b>Lanes:</b>	5

### Warning Devices

<b>Crossbucks, Standard:</b>	2
<b>Crossbucks, Buckeye:</b>	0
<b>Lights, Mast Mounted:</b>	2
<b>Lights, Cantilevered:</b>	4
<b>Lights, Other:</b>	0
<b>Gates:</b>	0

### Traffic Information

<b>Day Thru Trains:</b>	0
<b>Day Switching Trains:</b>	0
<b>Night Thru Trains:</b>	0
<b>Night Switch Trains:</b>	0
<b>Date of Train Count:</b>	Mar 4 2010 12:00AM
<b>Highway AADT:</b>	15658
<b>Date of AADT:</b>	2007

### Highway Information

<b>Distance to Nearest Intersection:</b>	5
<b>Type of Intersection:</b>	Unknown
<b>Number of HW-HW Intersections:</b>	1

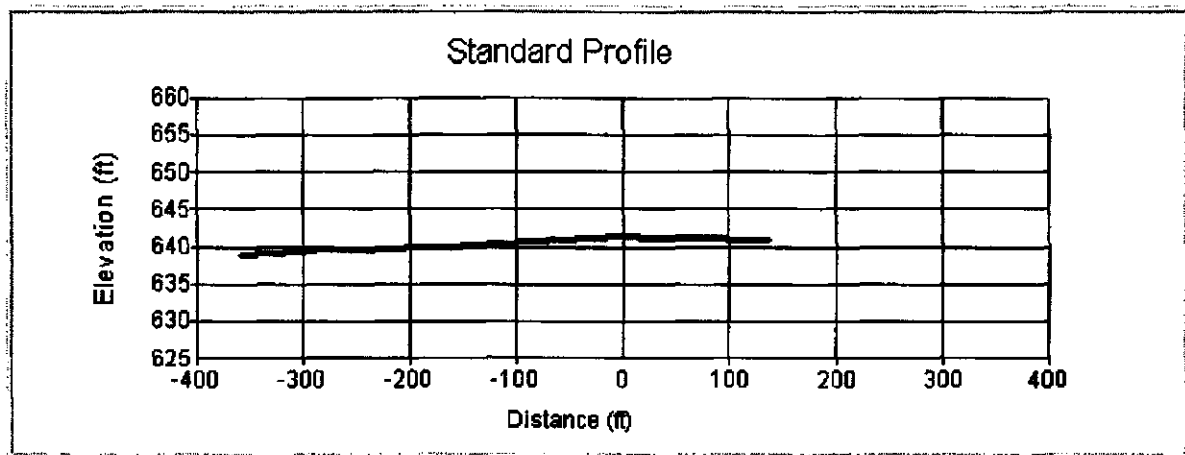
### Highway 1:

<b>Traffic Light:</b>	YES
-----------------------	-----

<b>Flashing Light:</b>	NO
<b>Stop Sign:</b>	NO
<b>Yield Sign:</b>	NO
<b>Distance from Tie to Center of Intersection:</b>	105
<b>DO NOT STOP ON TRACK(S) Sign:</b>	NO

### Site Comments

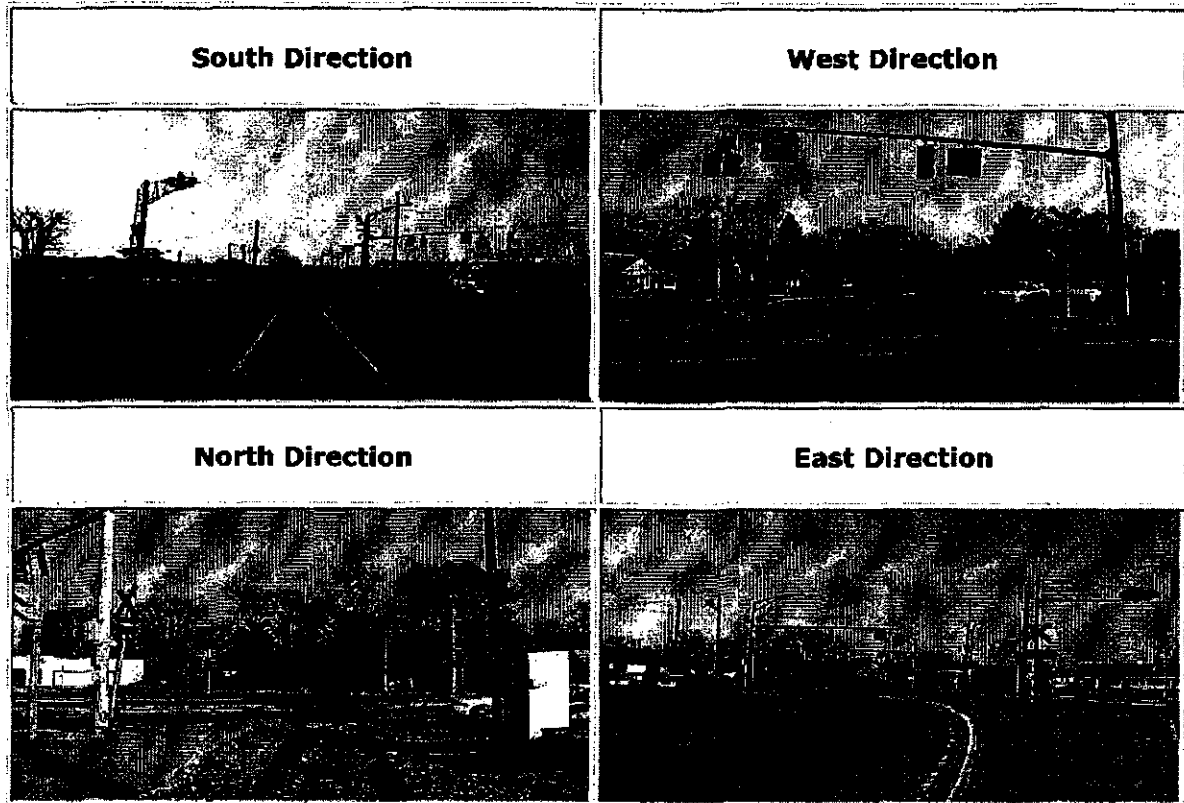
From RR 3-4-10: less than 1 train per day. CMS



[illegible]



Record ID: 4397



Site Information	
<b>AARDOT:</b>	154035C
<b>AARDOT Source:</b>	Field
<b>Adj. AARDOT:</b>	
<b>Adj. AARDOT Source:</b>	Field
<b>Survey Site ID:</b>	BUT884
<b>Intt. Agency for Change:</b>	State

<b>Reason for Change:</b>	Updated Record
<b>Effective Date:</b>	Nov 18 1999 12:00AM
<b>Railroad Information</b>	
<b>Operating RR:</b>	CSX Transportation, Inc.
<b>Division:</b>	LOUISVILLE
<b>Sub-Division:</b>	HAMILTON BELT
<b>Branch/Line Name:</b>	HAMILTON BELT
<b>Milepost:</b>	0.5
<b>Railroad ID:</b>	BDA
<b>Nearest Time Table Station:</b>	BELT JUNCTION
<b>Parent RR Company:</b>	CSX
<b>Crossing Owner:</b>	CSX
<b>Location and Classification Information</b>	
<b>County:</b>	BUTLER
<b>(Nearest) City:</b>	HAMILTON
<b>Street:</b>	CEREAL AVE
<b>Highway and SLM:</b>	
<b>High Speed Corridor:</b>	
<b>County Map Ref. Number:</b>	9
<b>ODOT NLF ID:</b>	MBUTMR00194**C
<b>Latitude:</b>	39.4140281
<b>Longitude:</b>	-84.5817413
<b>Elevation (ft):</b>	640.068
<b>Crossing Type:</b>	Public
<b>Position:</b>	At-Grade
<b>Emergency Contact:</b>	
<b>Railroad Contact:</b>	
<b>State Contact:</b>	
<b>LHA:</b>	CITY OF HAMILTON
<b>LHA2:</b>	

<b>Dev. Type:</b>	Commercial
<b>Crossing Angle:</b>	0-29 Degrees
<b>Main Tracks:</b>	1
<b>Other Tracks:</b>	0
<b>Lanes:</b>	3

#### Warning Devices

<b>Crossbucks, Standard:</b>	2
<b>Crossbucks, Buckeye:</b>	0
<b>Lights, Mast Mounted:</b>	2
<b>Lights, Cantilevered:</b>	3
<b>Lights, Other:</b>	0
<b>Gates:</b>	0

#### Traffic Information

<b>Day Thru Trains:</b>	0
<b>Day Switching Trains:</b>	0
<b>Night Thru Trains:</b>	0
<b>Night Switch Trains:</b>	0
<b>Date of Train Count:</b>	
<b>Highway AADT:</b>	006120
<b>Date of AADT:</b>	

#### Highway Information

<b>Distance to Nearest Intersection:</b>	78
<b>Type of Intersection:</b>	Highway
<b>Number of HW-HW Intersections:</b>	1

#### Highway 1:

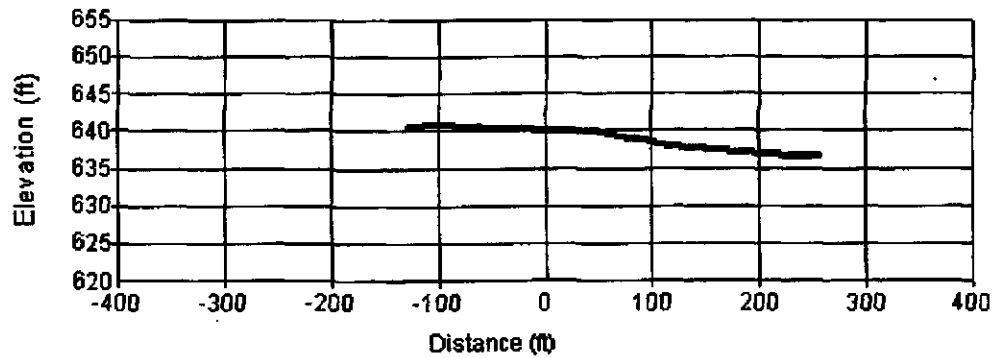
<b>Traffic Light:</b>	YES
-----------------------	-----

<b>Flashing Light:</b>	NO
<b>Stop Sign:</b>	NO
<b>Yield Sign:</b>	NO
<b>Distance from Tie to Center of Intersection:</b>	78
<b>DO NOT STOP ON TRACK(S) Sign:</b>	NO

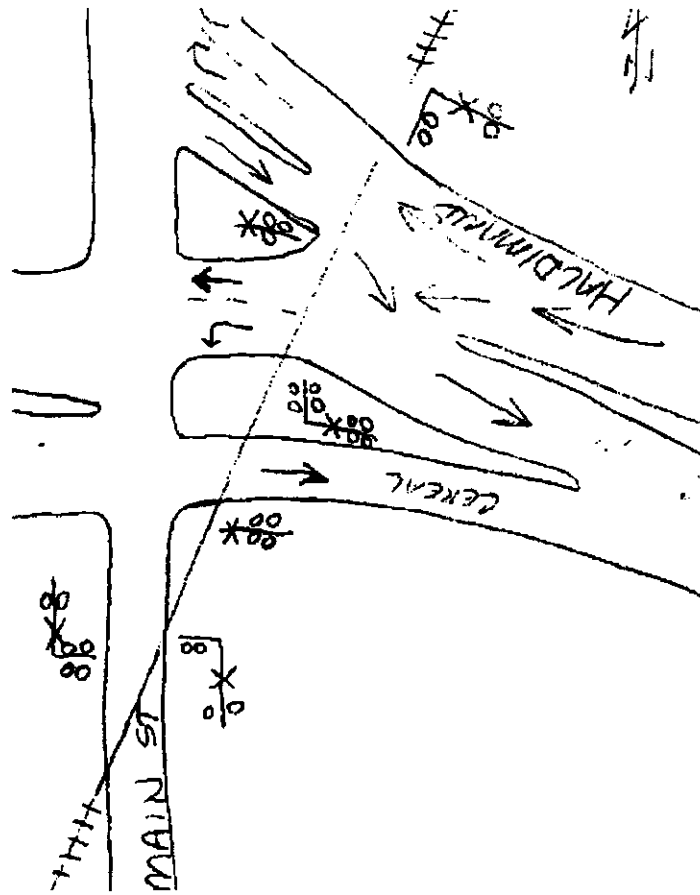
### Site Comments

No comments.

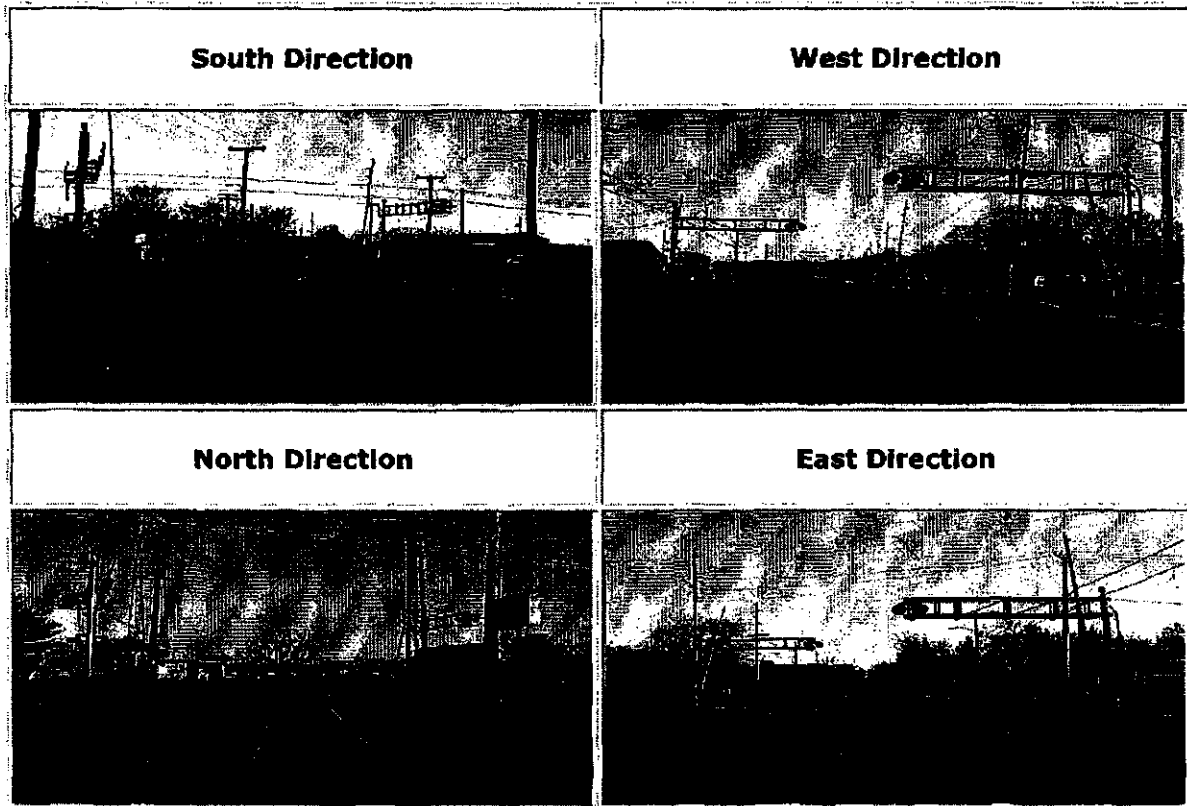
Standard Profile



# Site Sketch



Record ID: 4398



Site Information	
AARDOT:	154037R
AARDOT Source:	Field
Adj. AARDOT:	
Adj. AARDOT Source:	Field
Survey Site ID:	BUT872
Init. Agency for Change:	State
Reason for Change:	Updated Record

<b>Effective Date:</b>	Mar 9 2006 12:00AM
<b>Railroad Information</b>	
<b>Operating RR:</b>	CSX Transportation, Inc.
<b>Division:</b>	LOUISVILLE
<b>Sub-Division:</b>	HAMILTON BELT
<b>Branch/Line Name:</b>	
<b>Milepost:</b>	1.15
<b>Railroad ID:</b>	BDA
<b>Nearest Time Table Station:</b>	BELT JUNCTION
<b>Parent RR Company:</b>	CSX
<b>Crossing Owner:</b>	CSX
<b>Location and Classification Information</b>	
<b>County:</b>	BUTLER
<b>(Nearest) City:</b>	HAMILTON
<b>Street:</b>	EATON AVE
<b>Highway and SLM:</b>	
<b>High Speed Corridor:</b>	
<b>County Map Ref. Number:</b>	9
<b>ODOT NLF ID:</b>	MBUTMR00235**C
<b>Latitude:</b>	39.4213069
<b>Longitude:</b>	-84.5759254
<b>Elevation (ft):</b>	622.0662
<b>Crossing Type:</b>	Public
<b>Position:</b>	At-Grade
<b>Emergency Contact:</b>	
<b>Railroad Contact:</b>	
<b>State Contact:</b>	
<b>LHA:</b>	CITY OF HAMILTON
<b>LHA2:</b>	
<b>Dev. Type:</b>	Commercial

<b>Crossing Angle:</b>	60-90 Degrees
<b>Main Tracks:</b>	2
<b>Other Tracks:</b>	0
<b>Lanes:</b>	4

#### Warning Devices

<b>Crossbucks, Standard:</b>	2
<b>Crossbucks, Buckeye:</b>	0
<b>Lights, Mast Mounted:</b>	2
<b>Lights, Cantilevered:</b>	2
<b>Lights, Other:</b>	0
<b>Gates:</b>	2

#### Traffic Information

<b>Day Thru Trains:</b>	0
<b>Day Switching Trains:</b>	0
<b>Night Thru Trains:</b>	0
<b>Night Switch Trains:</b>	0
<b>Date of Train Count:</b>	
<b>Highway AADT:</b>	15900
<b>Date of AADT:</b>	2003

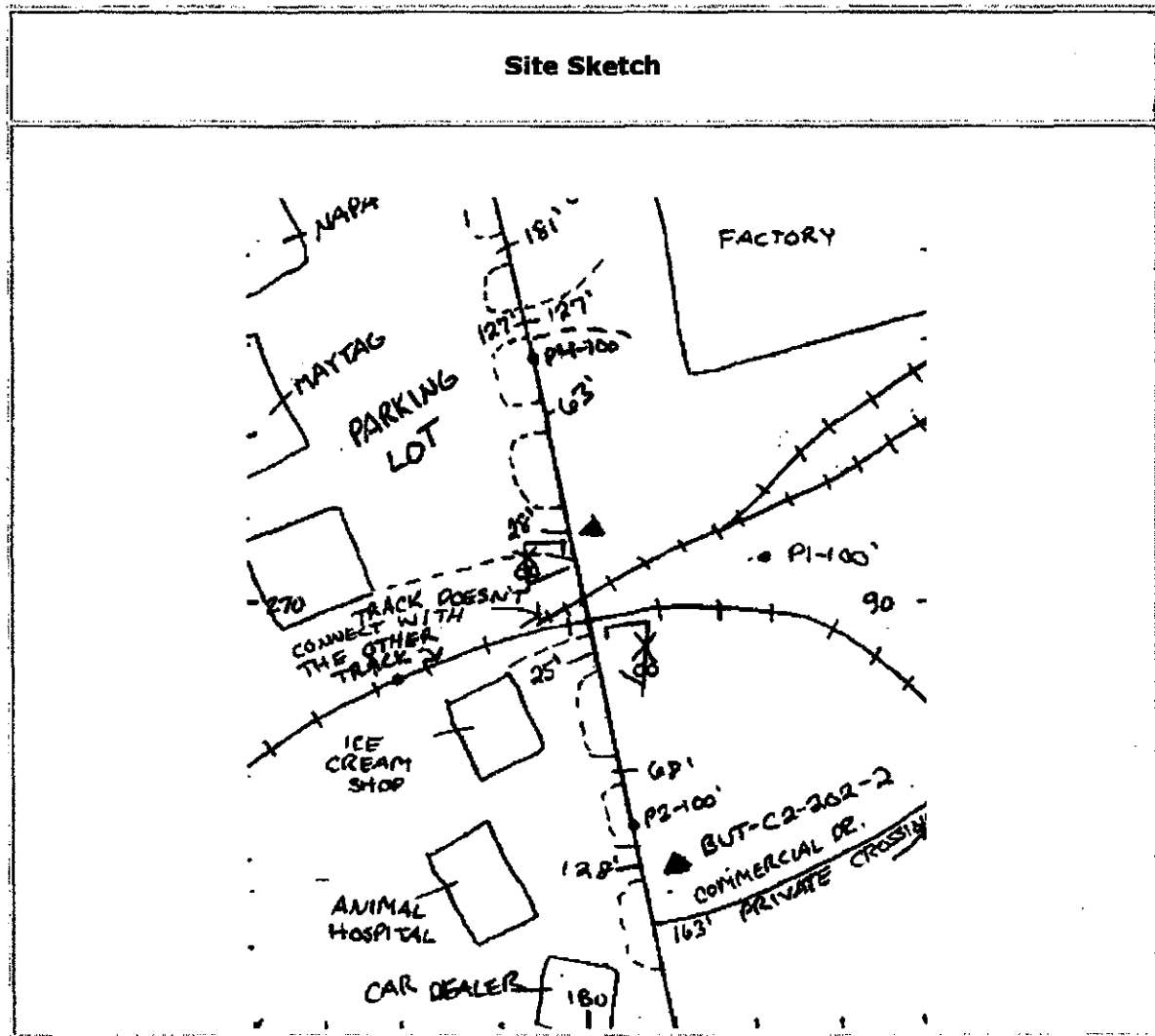
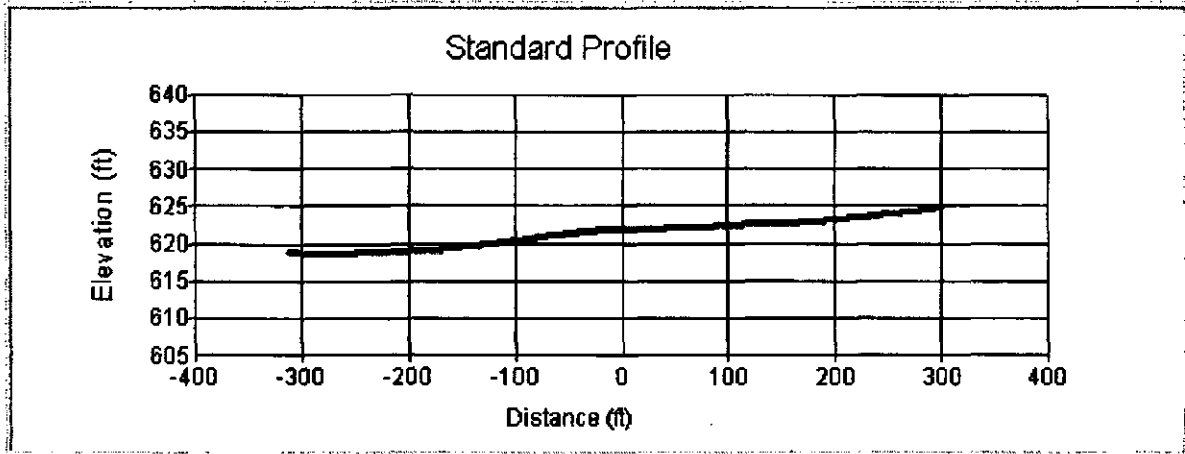
#### Highway Information

<b>Distance to Nearest Intersection:</b>	25
<b>Type of Intersection:</b>	Residential Drive
<b>Number of HW-HW Intersections:</b>	0

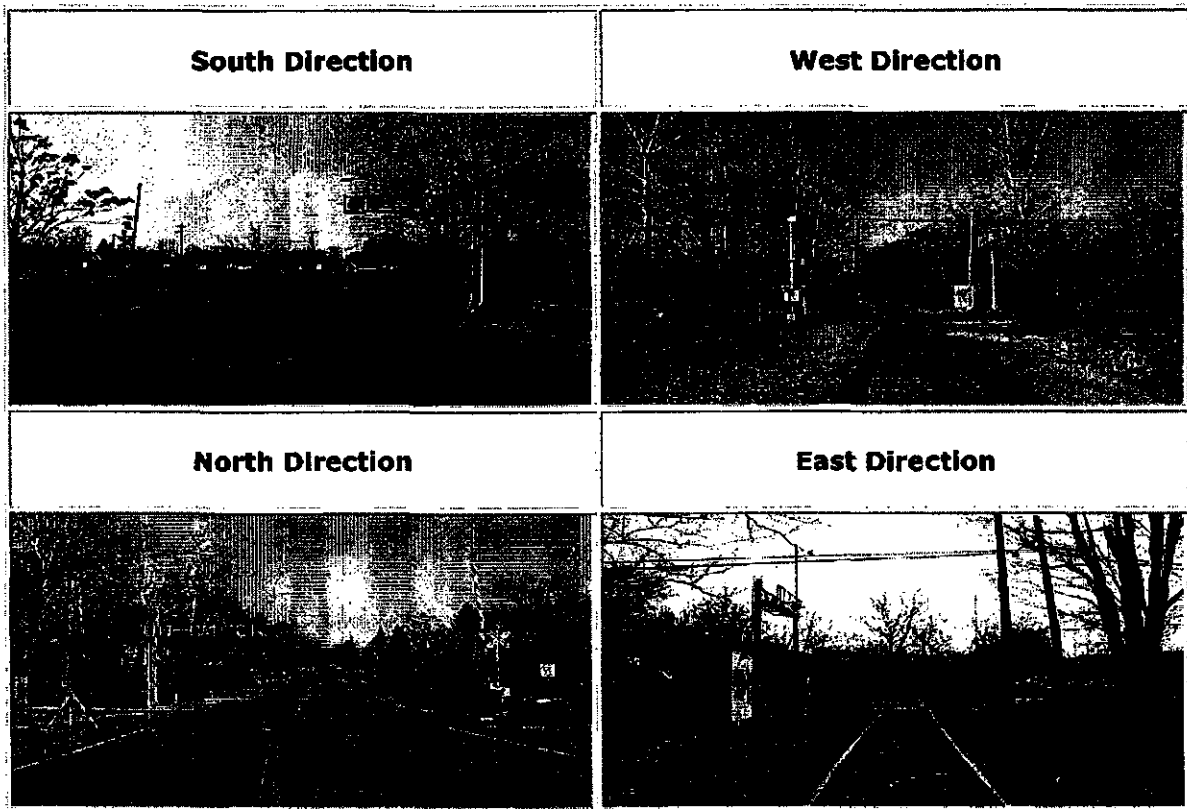
#### Site Comments

No comments.





Record ID: 4399



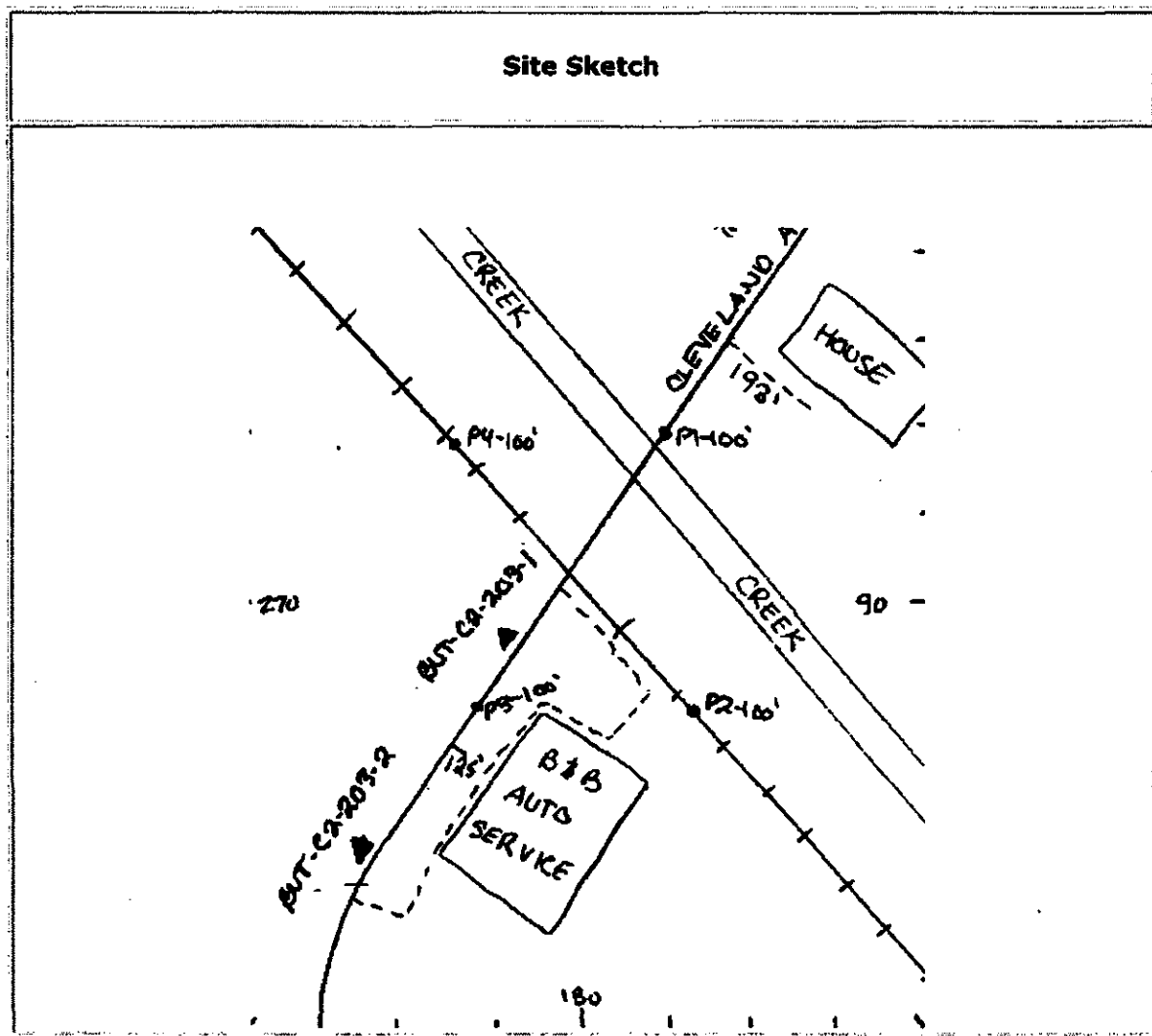
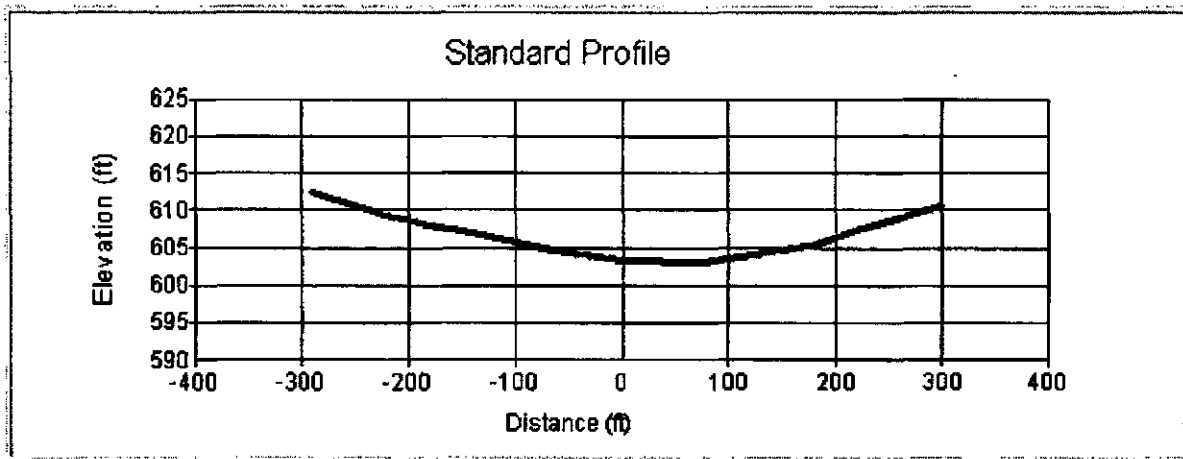
Site Information	
AARDOT:	154039E
AARDOT Source:	Database
Adj. AARDOT:	
Adj. AARDOT Source:	Field
Survey Site ID:	BUT873
Init. Agency for Change:	State
Reason for Change:	Updated Record

<b>Effective Date:</b>	Mar 9 2006 12:00AM
<b>Railroad Information</b>	
<b>Operating RR:</b>	CSX Transportation, Inc.
<b>Division:</b>	LOUISVILLE
<b>Sub-Division:</b>	HAMILTON BELT
<b>Branch/Line Name:</b>	
<b>Milepost:</b>	1.64
<b>Railroad ID:</b>	BDA
<b>Nearest Time Table Station:</b>	BELT JUNCTION
<b>Parent RR Company:</b>	CSX
<b>Crossing Owner:</b>	CSX
<b>Location and Classification Information</b>	
<b>County:</b>	BUTLER
<b>(Nearest) City:</b>	HAMILTON
<b>Street:</b>	CLEVELAND AVE
<b>Highway and SLM:</b>	
<b>High Speed Corridor:</b>	
<b>County Map Ref. Number:</b>	9
<b>ODOT NLF ID:</b>	MBUTMR00201**C
<b>Latitude:</b>	39.4182278
<b>Longitude:</b>	-84.5677874
<b>Elevation (ft):</b>	603.3596
<b>Crossing Type:</b>	Public
<b>Position:</b>	At-Grade
<b>Emergency Contact:</b>	
<b>Railroad Contact:</b>	
<b>State Contact:</b>	
<b>LHA:</b>	CITY OF HAMILTON
<b>LHA2:</b>	
<b>Dev. Type:</b>	Residential

<b>Crossing Angle:</b>	60-90 Degrees
<b>Main Tracks:</b>	1
<b>Other Tracks:</b>	0
<b>Lanes:</b>	2
<b>Warning Devices</b>	
<b>Crossbucks, Standard:</b>	3
<b>Crossbucks, Buckeye:</b>	0
<b>Lights, Mast Mounted:</b>	2
<b>Lights, Cantilevered:</b>	2
<b>Lights, Other:</b>	0
<b>Gates:</b>	2
<b>Traffic Information</b>	
<b>Day Thru Trains:</b>	0
<b>Day Switching Trains:</b>	0
<b>Night Thru Trains:</b>	0
<b>Night Switch Trains:</b>	0
<b>Date of Train Count:</b>	
<b>Highway AADT:</b>	1330
<b>Date of AADT:</b>	2003

<b>Highway Information</b>	
<b>Distance to Nearest Intersection:</b>	125
<b>Type of Intersection:</b>	Commercial Drive
<b>Number of HW-HW Intersections:</b>	0

<b>Site Comments</b>	
No match in CSX Database-gg Possibly a GMRX Crossing	



**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO  
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT  
RAIL DIVISION**

**Date of Assignment:** 11/08/2012

**Date of Inspection:** 11/19/2012

**Subject:** 12-2936-RR-RCP– Crossing exemptions, Hamilton Belt,  
Butler County, OH, CSX

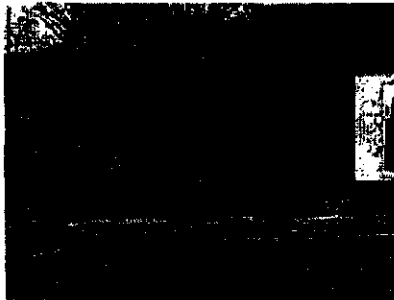
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**FINDINGS**

The Hamilton Belt is an industrial spur track in the city of Hamilton, OH. The spur starts at US 129/Millville Road with a switch leading off of the CSX Indianapolis main line part of the Louisville Division. The Hamilton Belt east of Cleveland Avenue (154-039E) changes ownership and becomes U.S. Rail Corporation (USRO).

USRO owns grade crossings; B St (154-040Y), B St (154-041F), B St (154-046P), and Black St (154-043U).

Figure 1 shows rail removed from the compass west approach to B St(154-040Y) making all of USRO grade crossings inaccessible to train traffic with track removed.



**Figure 1**

Figure 2 shows the switch leading to B St(154-041F) removed making the grade crossing inaccessible to train traffic.

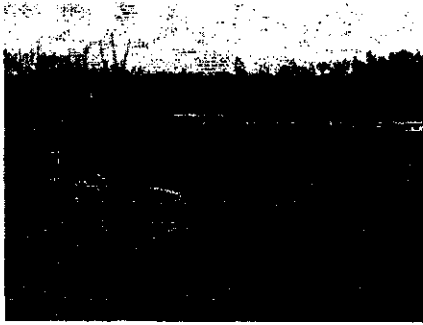


Figure 2

Figure 3 shows the track leading to B St (154-046P) removed making the grade crossing inaccessible to train traffic.



Figure 3

Figure 3 and figure 4 shows the track on either side of Black St (154-043U) removed making the grade crossing inaccessible to train traffic.

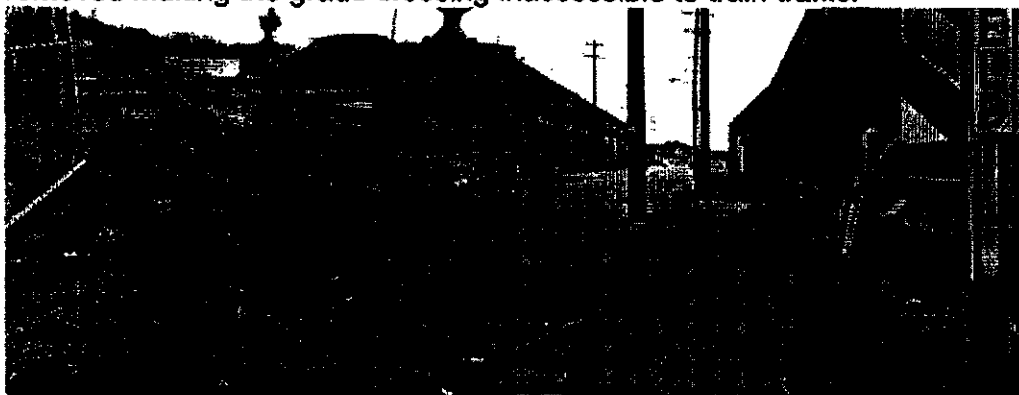
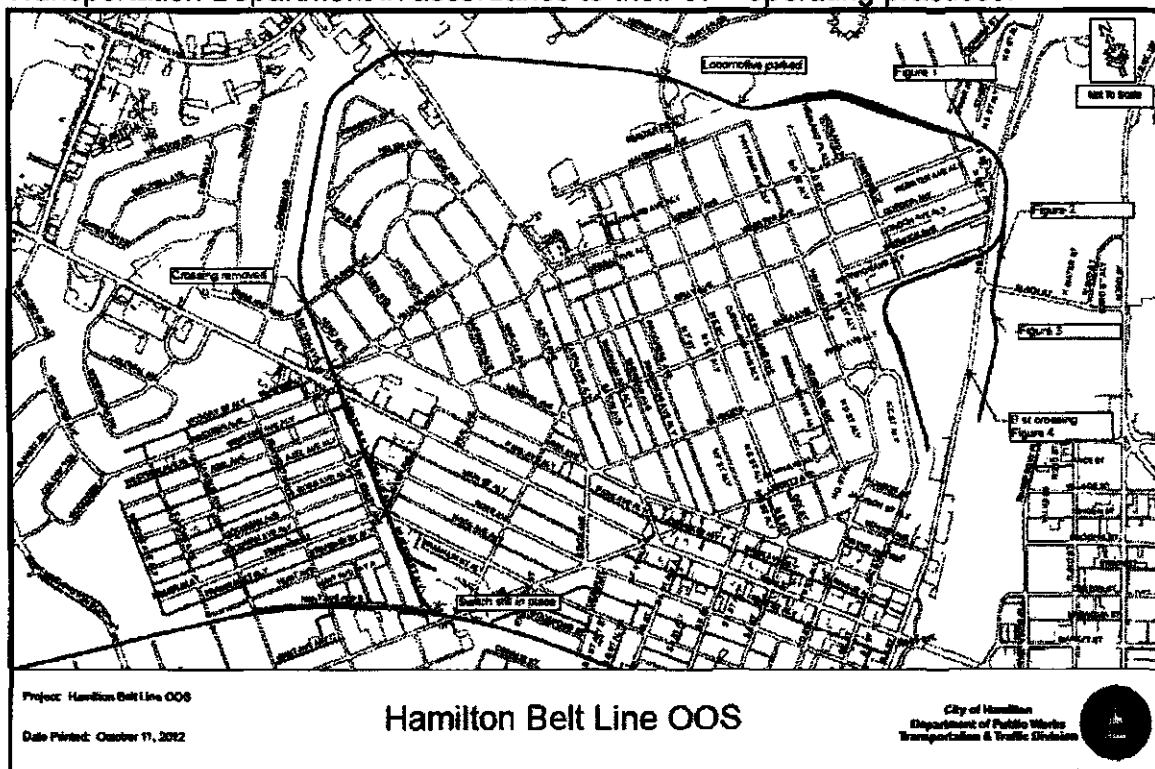


Figure 4

Figure 3

CSX owns six grade crossings on the spur; 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 switch at US 129/Millville Road appears to be operational making the grade crossings still accessible to train traffic. Andrew Langsner, Roadmaster for CSX, stated in an

email dated 10/12/2012 that the track was placed in an out of service state. I however could not find any bulletin notices relating this information to the CSX Transportation Department in accordance to their own operating practices.



### Summary

The City of Hamilton would like to have the Hamilton Belt grade crossings exempted and eventually removed. The former customer on the Belt was Smart Paper which has gone out of business and its facilities purchased by the city. There is only one access point to the Hamilton Belt at US129/Millville Road. The switch at this point appears to still be active, leaving all of the CSX grade crossings accessible to rail traffic. The track has been removed from most of USRO grade crossings making all of those inaccessible to rail traffic.

### Recommendations

Staff recommends the exemption be granted as the crossings on USRO are inaccessible to rail traffic. These grade crossings are identified as, B St (154-040Y), B St (154-041F), B St (154-046P) and Black St (154-043U) . CSX grade crossings; 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) are still accessible, but there is currently no traffic on the line.



Additionally, Main Street and Cereal Street have mast-mounted and cantilevered flashing lights, and Eaton Avenue and Cleveland Avenue have mast-mounted flashing lights and roadway gates. Shawn Moyer, CSX Signal Manager, confirms that these warning devices function as intended. He further states that the Cleveland Avenue crossing is out-of-service, with a section of rail removed.

Keith Wilson  
Railroad Inspector  
November 19, 2012

## **Ohio's Rail Grade Crossing Programs**

Ohio is a national leader in terms of railroad operations. Ohio is home to nearly 40 railroads that operate thousands of trains in Ohio every day over approximately 5,200 miles of track and 5,900 public grade crossings. The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) is the state agency with regulatory authority over railroads operating in Ohio. The Commission works in partnership with the Federal Railroad Administration to ensure that rail operations and infrastructure are safe and in compliance with federal and state regulations.

In addition to central office planners and other support staff, the PUCO employs federally certified railroad inspectors throughout Ohio. These inspectors respond to inquiries and complaints and conduct specialized inspections of railroad tracks and equipment, rail operations, hazardous material transportation, and grade crossing signal circuitry. The inspectors also monitor railroad rights-of-way and grade crossings for surface conditions, view obstruction, fencing and drainage concerns, conditions on railroad equipment and at rail yards and other facilities, and related safety concerns of both the PUCO and railroad employees.

PUCO inspectors investigate all grade crossing and railroad employee fatalities and monitor company inspections of rail bridges throughout the state.

## **Safety is our highest priority**

Grade crossing safety is one of the PUCO's highest priorities, and we are proud of our accomplishments. Since 1990, motor vehicle/train crashes at grade crossings in Ohio have declined by 66 percent and the number of fatalities has dropped by 77 percent. This dramatic improvement has been achieved during a period of steady increase in the amount of train traffic and in the number of registered motor vehicles and licensed drivers in Ohio. Over the past 10 years, the PUCO has participated in the installation of lights and gates at more than 1,000 grade crossings across Ohio. We look forward to working with your community to help make grade crossings as safe as possible.

## **Questions or Concerns?**

Call the Ohio Rail Hotline at (866) 814-RAIL or log on to [www.OhioRail.ohio.gov](http://www.OhioRail.ohio.gov) for answers to all of your railroad crossing needs.

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
John R. Kasich, Governor  
Todd A. Snitchler, Chairman

180 E. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793  
800 | 686-PUCO (7826)

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