

Memo

To: Docketing Division
From: George Martin, Grade Crossing Planner, Rail Division
Re: In the matter of the authorization of Norfolk Southern Railway to install an active grade crossing warning device in Seneca County
Date: June 20, 2013

The Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) has authorized funding for Norfolk Southern Railway (NS) to install **mast-mounted flashing lights and roadway gates** in Seneca County, Thompson Township, near Reedtown, Best Rd/TR 136, DOT# 481622D. The crossing was surveyed on September 20, 2012, due to its hazard ranking and was found to warrant the upgrade.

The project will be paid for with federal funds, and is actual cost. As the plan and estimate for the project has been submitted and approved, staff requests an Entry with completion due in nine months. Construction may commence at once. Staff requests that the following language be incorporated in the Entry:

It is expected that all work necessary for FHWA acceptance of the warning devices will be completed by the in-service due date and that the railroad will be responsible for this work. This work includes, but is not limited to:
Any ancillary work to make the warning devices function as designed and visible to the roadway user, and
MUTCD compliance, including minor roadway work if necessary.

A suggested case coding and heading would be:

PUCO Case No. 13- 1455 -RR-FED In the matter of the authorization of Norfolk Southern Railway to install an active grade warning device in Seneca County

C: Legal Department

Please serve the following parties of record.

RECEIVED-DOCKETING DIV
2013 JUN 20 PM 1:52
PUCO

Ms Cathy Stout

Ohio Rail Development Commission

1980 W Broad St, Mailstop # 3140

Columbus, Oh 43223

Ms Cayela Wimberly

Norfolk Southern Railway

1200 Peachtree St, Box 123

Atlanta, Ga 30309

Mr Casey Talbot

Eastman & Smith Ltd.

One SeaGate, 24th Floor

Toledo, Oh

North Central Rural Electric Cooperative

Thompson Township Trustees

7860 N TR 81

Bellevue, Oh 44811

**OHIO RAIL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION**

TO: Randall Schumacher,
Supervisor, Rail Division, Transportation Department, PUCO

FROM: Cathy Stout,
Manager, Safety Section, ORDC

BY: Don Damron
Project Manager

SUBJECT: Norfolk Southern, Seneca County
Township Road 136, Best Road,
DOT#481622D, PID 94514

DATE: June 19, 2013

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) established a diagnostic survey at the subject location on 9/20/2012. The Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) attended the review. The Diagnostic Team recommended the improvement of warning devices to flashing lights and roadway gates. Copies of the diagnostic review form and the plan and estimate are attached.

PE has already been provided by the railroad. ORDC approves the site plans and estimates as provided. Please issue a construction-only order for the project outlined above. 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.

It is expected that all work necessary for FHWA acceptance of the warning devices will be completed by the in-service due date and that the railroad will be responsible for this work. This work includes, but is not limited to:

- any ancillary work to make warning devices function as designed and visible to the roadway user, and
- MUTCD compliance – including minor roadway work if necessary.

Thank you for your assistance with these matters.

Attachment: Diagnostic Review
Plan & Estimate

c: George Martin, PUCO
ORDC Project Manager (file)



OHIO RAIL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Mail Stop #3140, 1980 West Broad Street, Columbus OH 43223

John R. Kasich, Governor • James G. Bradley, Chairman

June 19, 2013

Ms. Cayela J. Wimberly
Public Projects Engineer
1200 Peachtree Street, Box 123
Atlanta, GA 30309

RE: Seneca County
TR 136, Best Road
DOT# 481 622 D
PID# 94514

Dear Ms. Wimberly:

The plan and estimate dated April 26, 2013, for the referenced project has been reviewed and is acceptable. Norfolk Southern may proceed with the construction of the proposed grade crossing warning system in accordance with the abbreviated plan. This authorization is made with the stipulation and understanding that the 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. Reimbursement of eligible actual cost is limited to \$200,331.00. Additional costs must be approved in writing by the Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) prior to being incurred. Emergency verbal authorizations by ORDC may be permitted and will be confirmed by ORDC in writing within ten (10) business days of the verbal approval.

This authorization is contingent upon Norfolk Southern accepting the following instructions:

1. The Norfolk Southern project foreman will furnish written notification five (5) working days prior to the date work will start at the project site to Don Damron, ORDC, don.damron@dot.state.oh.us (email), and to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio at George.martin@puc.state.oh.us. The Norfolk Southern project foreman will also notify the same of any stops and re-starts of the work activity and of the date work was completed for the project.
2. Norfolk Southern will arrange for utilities to be located at the project site by the Ohio Utilities Protection Service (OUPS) prior to any construction activities at the site. Utilities that are not participating members of the service must be contacted directly by Norfolk Southern.
3. The Norfolk Southern project foremen will notify Don Damron at 614-466-2509 (office phone) or 614-917-8466 (cell phone) or don.damron@dot.state.oh.us (email) of any changes in the scope of work, cost overruns, material changes, etc. which are not included in the approved plan and estimate and secure approval of same before the work is performed.



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4. Norfolk Southern will furnish two (2) copies of each partial bill to ORDC. Please find the enclosed ODOT Purchase Order to reference when billing.
5. Norfolk Southern will furnish two (2) copies of the final all-inclusive bill to ORDC stating the exact dates of starting and completing work, the initial and final dates of construction and location where the accounts may be audited.

Thank you for your assistance with these matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Donald J. Damron".

Donald J Damron
Project Manager

C: Randall Schumacher, Supervisor, Rail Division, Transportation Department, PUCO
George Martin, Grade Crossing Planner, PUCO
ORDC (file)