

Memo

To: Docketing Division

From: Jill Henry, Rail Specialist, Rail Division

Cc: PUCO Legal Department

Date: 8/23/17

Re: PUCO Case No. 16-1592-RR-RCP- In the Matter of a Request by Norfolk Southern Railway Company to Relocate and/or Modify Certain Grade Crossing Warning Devices in Canton, Stark County, Ohio.

The following is supplemental information as requested by our legal department:

As a result of the on-site review on November 7, 2016, Norfolk Southern (NS) decided to ask the City of Canton (City) about closing the 8th Street crossing. It should be noted that the closure was not part of the NS application. PUCO Staff noted that this could be considered a consolidation project and if the City agreed to the closure than we could make upgrades at another crossing. Since the crossings all have active warning devices in the area, Staff offered the suggestion of upgrading all of the crossings to LED lights.

A response from the City, docketed on May 22, 2017, stated that the City was willing to close the 8th Street crossing, but wanted a bike trail crossing. Additionally, the City requested that the third track not be entirely removed due to potential development and stated that they were interested in a quiet zone near the Market Street crossing.

Staff has the following response to those issues:

- 1) The closure of 8th Street and addition of a bike trail crossing does not actually produce a reduction in the number of crossings in the City, so it cannot be considered by staff for use of consolidation funds. The negotiation of the closure and the bike trail crossing is a matter between the City and NS.
- 2) The quiet zone issue will have to be addressed by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), since they regulate quiet zone implementation.
- 3) The removal of the third track is being done by NS because it is not a utilized track and with Positive Train Control (PTC) implementation it would be costly to add PTC to a track that has no train traffic. PTC is a new FRA regulation and the deadline for implementation is December 31, 2018. NS has informed Staff that they would like to

complete the crossing modification work this year, so that the PTC work can also be completed by December 2018.

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Case No(s). 16-1592-RR-RCP

Summary: Memorandum In the Matter of a Request by Norfolk Southern Railway Company to Relocate and/or Modify Certain Grade Crossing Warning Devices in Canton, Stark County, Ohio. electronically filed by Mrs. Jill A Henry on behalf of PUCO/Rail Division