

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

In the Matter of a Request by the Mahoning County Engineer  
for an Exemption from Stopping for School Buses and  
Hazardous Materials Vehicles at County Road Crossings 84, 22,  
23, 28, 25, and 32 and Township Road Crossings 29 and 30 in  
Mahoning County.

Case Number 18-1606-RR-RCP

In the Matter of a Request by the Mahoning County Engineer  
for an Exemption from Stopping for School Buses and  
Hazardous Materials Vehicles at County Road 49 Crossing in  
Mahoning County.

Case Number 18-1902-RR-RCP

In the Matter of a Request by the Village of Sebring for an  
Exemption from Stopping for School Buses and Hazardous  
Materials Vehicles at North Johnson Road Crossing in  
Mahoning County.

Case Number 19-1488-RR-RCP

In the Matter of a Request by the Mahoning County Engineer  
for an Exemption from Stopping for School Buses and  
Hazardous Materials Vehicles at the County Road 11 and 26  
Crossings in Mahoning County.

Case Number 19-1891-RR-RCP

December 13, 2019

## **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 (ORC) §4905.471.

The PUCO has the authority to close public at grade crossings pursuant to ORC §§4907.474 and 4907.475. These 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 and/or pedestrian traffic 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 ORC §4907.471.

The PUCO has the authority under ORC §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.

## DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANT

Mahoning County is the local highway authority with jurisdiction over nine grade crossings that are the subject of this petition for exemption under 45 ORC 4511.63.

Goshen Township is the local highway authority with jurisdiction over two grade crossings that are the subject of this petition for exemption under 45 ORD 4511.63.

The Village of Sebring is the local highway authority with jurisdiction over one grade crossing that is the subject of this petition for exemption under 45 ORD 4511.63.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

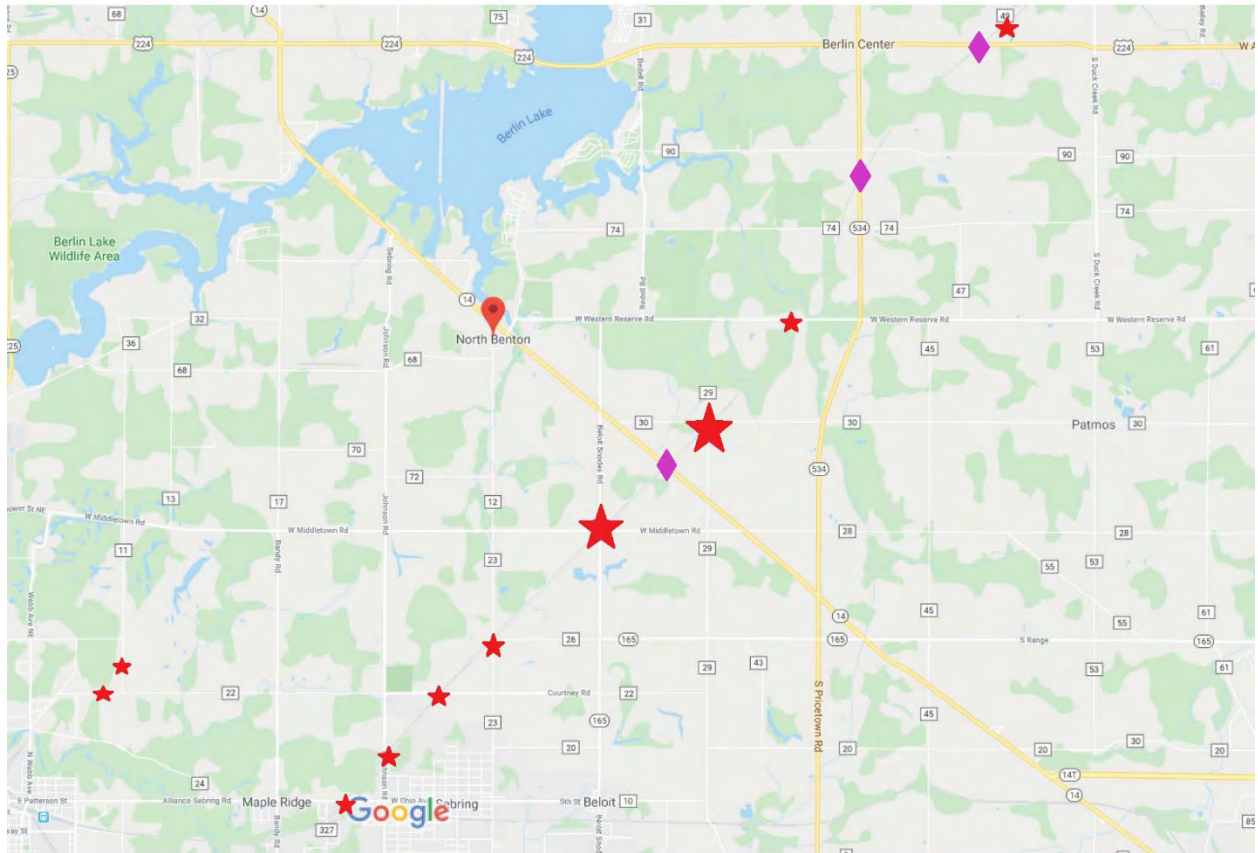
The Mahoning County Engineer, Goshen Township (through the Mahoning County Engineer), and the Village of Sebring have petitioned for the following 12 crossings to be considered for exemption.

<b>USDOT Number</b>	<b>Case Number</b>	<b>Street</b>	<b>Road Number</b>	<b>LHA</b>
502462D	18-1606-RR-RCP	ALLIANCE SEBRING	CR 84	Mahoning County
502463K	19-1488-RR-RCP	N JOHNSON RD		Village of Sebring
502464S	18-1606-RR-RCP	COURTNEY RD	CR 22	Mahoning County
502465Y	18-1606-RR-RCP	N 12TH ST	CR 23	Mahoning County
502466F	18-1606-RR-RCP	MIDDLETOWN RD	CR 28	Mahoning County
502467M	18-1606-RR-RCP	BELOIT SNODES RD	CR 25	Mahoning County
502468U	18-1606-RR-RCP	SMITH GOSHEN RD	TR 29	Goshen Township
502469B	18-1606-RR-RCP	CALLA RD	TR 30	Goshen Township
502471C	18-1606-RR-RCP	WESTERN RESERVE RD	CR 32	Mahoning County
502477T	18-1902-RR-RCP	WEAVER RD	CR 49	Mahoning County
544765D	19-1891-RR-RCP	OYSTER RD	CR 11	Mahoning County
544764W	19-1891-RR-RCP	SOUTH RANGE RD	CR 26	Mahoning County

In the petitions, the local highway authorities state that these rail lines have not been in use for several years and that an exemption from stopping will increase safety for the traveling public. They made these petitions at the request of the West Branch Local School District and the Western Reserve Local School District.

These crossings are currently owned and maintained by Norfolk Southern Railroad (NS). NS has confirmed that the rail line is out of service and that NS does not have train service at these crossings.

## Mahoning County Exemption Requests in this Report



★ = Exemption location

★ = 2 Exemptions close to each other

◆ = Exemption already in place



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

**Date of Assignment:** November 16, 2018

**Date of Inspection:** February 14, 2019

**Subject:** 18-1606-RR-RCP – Petition for exemption, Alliance Sebring Road, Sebring, Mahoning County, Norfolk Southern Corporation.

**DOT #:** 502-462D

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**FINDINGS**

On receipt of the present assignment, I conducted an inspection of the crossing on February 14, 2019. The Mahoning County Engineer is seeking an exemption for the grade crossing under Ohio Revised Code 4511.63.

On the above noted day, I inspected the highway rail grade crossing which is located in Sebring. Upon inspection I found a two lane roadway that travels east and west with a highway rail grade crossing owned by Norfolk Southern Railroad and runs northeast and southwest. The crossing has standard crossbucks with lights and gates.

On November 28, 2018, I sent an email to Norfolk Southern Rail. I advised them of the application for exemption and requested information on the railroads train traffic over the line. The railroad advised the crossing has not had any rail traffic in years and does not expect to see any in the near future.

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

Currently the railroad does not have any traffic over the crossing. There is no expectation of traffic over the line in the near future.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

In view of the foregoing findings and conclusion, I recommend the commission grant the exemption as requested. The railroad should also be placed on notice that any future train movements over the grade crossing will be required to be flagged per their operating rules.

L. Kevin Lesh  
PUCO/FRA Rail Inspector  
Date: November 12, 2019

CR 84/ Alliance Sebring Road  
DOT# 502-462D Crossing  
Looking East





CR 84/ Alliance Sebring Road  
DOT# 502-462D Crossing  
Looking North





CR 84/ Alliance Sebring Road  
DOT# 502-462D Crossing  
Looking South





CR 84/ Alliance Sebring Road  
DOT# 502-462D Crossing  
Looking West



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

**Date of Assignment:** November 16, 2018

**Date of Inspection:** April 9, 2019

**Subject:** 18-1606-RR-RCP – Petition for exemption, Courtney Road, Sebring, Mahoning County, Norfolk Southern Corporation.

**DOT #:** 502-464S

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**FINDINGS**

On receipt of the present assignment, I conducted an inspection of the crossing on April 9, 2019. The Mahoning County Engineer is seeking an exemption for the grade crossing under Ohio Revised Code 4511.63.

On the above noted day, I inspected the highway rail grade crossing which is located in Sebring. Upon inspection I found a two lane roadway that travels east and west with a highway rail grade crossing owned by Norfolk Southern Railroad and runs northeast and southwest. The crossing has standard crossbucks.

On November 28, 2018, I sent an email to Norfolk Southern Rail. I advised them of the application for exemption and requested information on the railroad's train traffic over the line. The railroad advised the crossing has not had any rail traffic in years and does not expect to see any in the near future.

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

Currently the railroad does not have any traffic over the crossing. There is no expectation of traffic over the line in the near future.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

In view of the foregoing findings and conclusion, I recommend the commission grant the exemption as requested. The railroad should also be placed on notice that any future train movements over the grade crossing will be required to be flagged per their operating rules.

L. Kevin Lesh  
PUCO/FRA Rail Inspector  
Date: November 12, 2019



CR 22/ Courtney Road  
DOT# 502-464S  
Crossing looking  
West





CR 22/ Courtney Road  
DOT# 502-464S  
Crossing looking North





CR 22/ Courtney Road  
DOT# 502-464S  
Crossing looking South





CR 22/ Courtney Road  
DOT# 502-464S  
Crossing looking East



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

**Date of Assignment:** November 16, 2018

**Date of Inspection:** April 9, 2019

**Subject:** 18-1606-RR-RCP – Petition for exemption, North 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Sebring, Mahoning County, Norfolk Southern Corporation.

**DOT #:** 502-465Y

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**FINDINGS**

On receipt of the present assignment, I conducted an inspection of the crossing on April 9, 2019. The Mahoning County Engineer is seeking an exemption for the grade crossing under Ohio Revised Code 4511.63.

On the above noted day, I inspected the highway rail grade crossing which is located near Sebring. Upon inspection I found a two lane roadway that travels north and south with a highway rail grade crossing owned by Norfolk Southern Railroad and runs northeast and southwest. The crossing has standard crossbucks with lights and gates.

On November 28, 2018, I sent an email to Norfolk Southern Rail. I advised them of the application for exemption and requested information on the railroads train traffic over the line. The railroad advised the crossing has not had any rail traffic in years and does not expect to see any in the near future.

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

Currently the railroad does not have any traffic over the crossing. There is no expectation of traffic over the line in the near future.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

In view of the foregoing findings and conclusion, I recommend the commission grant the exemption as requested. The railroad should also be placed on notice that any future train movements over the grade crossing will be required to be flagged per their operating rules.

L. Kevin Lesh  
PUCO/FRA Rail Inspector  
Date: November 12, 2019



CR 23/ N.12th St.  
DOT# 502-465Y  
Looking East





CR 23/ N.12th St.  
DOT# 502-465Y  
Looking North





CR 23/ N.12th St.  
DOT# 502-465Y  
Looking South





CR 23/ N.12th St.  
DOT# 502-465Y  
Looking West



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

**Date of Assignment:** November 16, 2018

**Date of Inspection:** April 9, 2019

**Subject:** 18-1606-RR-RCP – Petition for exemption, Middletown Road, Smith, Mahoning County, Norfolk Southern Corporation.

**DOT #:** 502-466F

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**FINDINGS**

On receipt of the present assignment, I conducted an inspection of the crossing on April 9, 2019. The Mahoning County Engineer is seeking an exemption for the grade crossing under Ohio Revised Code 4511.63.

On the above noted day, I inspected the highway rail grade crossing which is located in Smith Township. Upon inspection I found a two lane roadway that travels east and west with a highway rail grade crossing owned by Norfolk Southern Railroad and runs northeast and southwest. The crossing has standard crossbucks with lights and gates.

On November 28, 2018, I sent an email to Norfolk Southern Rail. I advised them of the application for exemption and requested information on the railroads train traffic over the line. The railroad advised the crossing has not had any rail traffic in years and does not expect to see any in the near future.

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

Currently the railroad does not have any traffic over the crossing. There is no expectation of traffic over the line in the near future.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

In view of the foregoing findings and conclusion, I recommend the commission grant the exemption as requested. The railroad should also be placed on notice that any future train movements over the grade crossing will be required to be flagged per their operating rules.

L. Kevin Lesh  
PUCO/FRA Rail Inspector  
Date: November 12, 2019



CR 28/ Middletown Road  
DOT# 502-466F Crossing  
Looking North





CR 28/ Middletown Road  
DOT# 502-466F Crossing  
Looking East





CR 28/ Middletown Road  
DOT# 502-466F Crossing  
Looking South





CR 28/ Middletown Road  
DOT# 502-466F Crossing  
Looking West



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

**Date of Assignment:** November 16, 2018

**Date of Inspection:** April 9, 2019

**Subject:** 18-1606-RR-RCP – Petition for exemption, Beloit Snodes Road, Smith, Mahoning County, Norfolk Southern Corporation.

**DOT #:** 502-467M

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**FINDINGS**

On receipt of the present assignment, I conducted an inspection of the crossing on April 9, 2019. The Mahoning County Engineer is seeking an exemption for the grade crossing under Ohio Revised Code 4511.63.

On the above noted day, I inspected the highway rail grade crossing which is located in Smith Township. Upon inspection I found a two lane roadway that travels north and south with a highway rail grade crossing owned by Norfolk Southern Railroad and runs northeast and southwest. The crossing has standard crossbucks with lights and gates.

On November 28, 2018, I sent an email to Norfolk Southern Rail. I advised them of the application for exemption and requested information on the railroads train traffic over the line. The railroad advised the crossing has not had any rail traffic in years and does not expect to see any in the near future.

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

Currently the railroad does not have any traffic over the crossing. There is no expectation of traffic over the line in the near future.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

In view of the foregoing findings and conclusion, I recommend the commission grant the exemption as requested. The railroad should also be placed on notice that any future train movements over the grade crossing will be required to be flagged per their operating rules.

L. Kevin Lesh  
PUCO/FRA Rail Inspector  
Date: November 12, 2019



CR 25/ Beloit Snodes Road  
DOT# 502-467M Crossing  
Looking East





CR 25/ Beloit Snodes Road  
DOT# 502-467M Crossing  
Looking North





CR 25/ Beloit Snodes Road  
DOT# 502-467M Crossing  
Looking South





CR 25/ Beloit Snodes Road  
DOT# 502-467M Crossing  
Looking West



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

**Date of Assignment:** November 16, 2018

**Date of Inspection:** April 9, 2019

**Subject:** 18-1606-RR-RCP – Petition for exemption, Smith Goshen Road, Beloit, Mahoning County, Norfolk Southern Corporation.

**DOT #:** 502-468U

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**FINDINGS**

On receipt of the present assignment, I conducted an inspection of the crossing on April 9, 2019. The Mahoning County Engineer is seeking an exemption for the grade crossing under Ohio Revised Code 4511.63.

On the above noted day, I inspected the highway rail grade crossing which is located near Beloit. Upon inspection I found a two lane roadway that travels north and south with a highway rail grade crossing owned by Norfolk Southern Railroad and runs north and south. The crossing has standard crossbucks with Yield signs.

On November 28, 2018, I sent an email to Norfolk Southern Rail. I advised them of the application for exemption and requested information on the railroads train traffic over the line. The railroad advised the crossing has not had any rail traffic in years and does not expect to see any in the near future.

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

Currently the railroad does not have any traffic over the crossing. There is no expectation of traffic over the line in the near future.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

In view of the foregoing findings and conclusion, I recommend the commission grant the exemption as requested. The railroad should also be placed on notice that any future train movements over the grade crossing will be required to be flagged per their operating rules.

L. Kevin Lesh  
PUCO/FRA Rail Inspector  
Date: November 12, 2019



TR 29/ Smith Goshen Road  
DOT# 502-468U Crossing  
Looking East





TR 29/ Smith Goshen Road  
DOT# 502-468U Crossing  
Looking West





TR 29/ Smith Goshen Road  
DOT# 502-468U Crossing  
Looking North





TR 29/ Smith Goshen Road  
DOT# 502-468U Crossing  
Looking South



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

**Date of Assignment:** November 16, 2018

**Date of Inspection:** April 9, 2019

**Subject:** 18-1606-RR-RCP – Petition for exemption, Calla Road, Goshen, Mahoning County, Norfolk Southern Corporation.

**DOT #:** 502-469B

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**FINDINGS**

On receipt of the present assignment, I conducted an inspection of the crossing on April 9, 2019. The Mahoning County Engineer and Goshen Township Trustees are seeking an exemption for the grade crossing under Ohio Revised Code 4511.63.

On the above noted day, I inspected the highway rail grade crossing which is located in Goshen Township. Upon inspection I found a two lane roadway that travels east and west with a highway rail grade crossing owned by Norfolk Southern Railroad and runs northeast and southwest. The crossing has one standard crossbuck. The rail through the crossing has been paved over.

On November 28, 2018, I sent an email to Norfolk Southern Rail. I advised them of the application for exemption and requested information on the railroads train traffic over the line. The railroad advised the crossing has not had any rail traffic in years and does not expect to see any in the near future.

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

Currently the railroad does not have any traffic over the crossing. There is no expectation of traffic over the line in the near future.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

In view of the foregoing findings and conclusion, I recommend the commission grant the exemption as requested. The railroad should also be placed on notice that any future train movements over the grade crossing will be required to be flagged per their operating rules.

L. Kevin Lesh  
PUCO/FRA Rail Inspector  
Date: November 12, 2019



TR 30/ Calla Road  
DOT# 502-469B Crossing  
Looking West





TR 30/ Calla Road  
DOT# 502-469B Crossing  
Looking East





TR 30/ Calla Road  
DOT# 502-469B Crossing  
Looking North





TR 30/ Calla Road  
DOT# 502-469B Crossing  
Looking South





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

**Date of Assignment:** November 16, 2018

**Date of Inspection:** April 9, 2019

**Subject:** 18-1606-RR-RCP – Petition for exemption, Western Reserve Road, Berlin Center, Mahoning County, Norfolk Southern Corporation.

**DOT #:** 502-471C

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**FINDINGS**

On receipt of the present assignment, I conducted an inspection of the crossing on April 9, 2019. The Mahoning County Engineer is seeking an exemption for the grade crossing under Ohio Revised Code 4511.63.

On the above noted day, I inspected the highway rail grade crossing which is located near Berlin Township. Upon inspection I found a two lane roadway that travels east and west with a highway rail grade crossing owned by Norfolk Southern Railroad and runs northeast and southwest. The crossing has No warning devices at this time.

On November 28, 2018, I sent an email to Norfolk Southern Rail. I advised them of the application for exemption and requested information on the railroads train traffic over the line. The railroad advised the crossing has not had any rail traffic in years and does not expect to see any in the near future.

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

Currently the railroad does not have any traffic over the crossing. There is no expectation of traffic over the line in the near future.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

In view of the foregoing findings and conclusion, I recommend the commission grant the exemption as requested. The railroad should also be placed on notice that any future train movements over the grade crossing will be required to be flagged per their operating rules.

L. Kevin Lesh  
PUCO/FRA Rail Inspector  
Date: November 12, 2019



CR 32/ Western Reserve Road  
DOT# 502-471C Crossing  
Looking South





CR 32/ Western Reserve Road  
DOT# 502-471C Crossing  
Looking North





CR 32/ Western Reserve Road  
DOT# 502-471C Crossing  
Looking East





CR 32/ Western Reserve Road  
DOT# 502-471C Crossing  
Looking West





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

**Date of Assignment:** October 30, 2019

**Date of Inspection:** November 21, 2019

**Subject:** 19-1488-RR-RCP – Petition for exemption North Johnson Road, Mahoning County, Norfolk Southern Corporation.

**DOT #:** 502-463K

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**FINDINGS**

On receipt of the present assignment, I conducted an inspection of the crossing on November 21, 2019. The Mahoning County Engineer is seeking an exemption for the grade crossing under Ohio Revised Code 4511.63.

On the above noted day, I inspected the highway rail grade crossing which is located in Sebring. Upon inspection I found a two lane roadway that travels north and south with a highway rail grade crossing owned by Norfolk Southern Railroad and runs east and west. The crossing has one crossbuck at present time.

On October 31, 2019, I sent an email to Norfolk Southern Railroad. I advised them of the application for exemption and requested information on the railroads train traffic over the line. The railroad advised: This line has been classified as out of service and they do not currently operate on this track. This crossing is inaccessible to trains, and have not contacted me on any further acceptance or objection.

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

Currently this line has been classified by the Railroad as out of service and they do not currently operate on this track. This crossing is inaccessible to trains.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

In view of the foregoing findings and conclusion, I recommend the commission grant the exemption as requested. The railroad should also be placed on notice that any future train movements over the grade crossing will be required to be flagged per their operating rules.

L. Kevin Lesh  
PUCO Railroad Inspector1  
Date: December 2, 2019





Johnson Road  
Facing North  
DOT#502-463K





Johnson Road  
Facing East  
DOT#502-463K





Johnson Road  
Facing West  
DOT#502-463K





Johnson Road  
Facing South  
DOT#502-463K



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

**Date of Assignment:** October 30, 2019

**Date of Inspection:** November 21, 2019

**Subject:** 19-1891-RR-RCP – Petition for exemption Oyster road, Mahoning County, Norfolk Southern Corporation.

**DOT #:** 544-765D

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**FINDINGS**

On receipt of the present assignment, I conducted an inspection of the crossing on November 21, 2019. The Mahoning County Engineer is seeking an exemption for the grade crossing under Ohio Revised Code 4511.63.

On the above noted day, I inspected the highway rail grade crossing which is located near Alliance. Upon inspection I found a two lane roadway that travels north and south with a highway rail grade crossing owned by Norfolk Southern Railroad and runs northeast and southwest. The crossing has no warning signs at present time.

On October 31, 2019, I sent an email to Norfolk Southern Railroad. I advised them of the application for exemption and requested information on the railroads train traffic over the line. The railroad advised: This line has been classified as out of service and they do not currently operate on this track. This crossing is inaccessible to trains, and have not contacted me on any further acceptance or objection.

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

Currently this line has been classified by the Railroad as out of service and they do not currently operate on this track. This crossing is inaccessible to trains.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

In view of the foregoing findings and conclusion, I recommend the commission grant the exemption as requested. The railroad should also be placed on notice that any future train movements over the grade crossing will be required to be flagged per their operating rules.

L. Kevin Lesh  
PUCO Railroad Inspector1  
Date: December 2, 2019





Oyster Road  
Facing East  
DOT#544-765D





Oyster Road  
Facing North  
DOT#544-765D





Oyster Road  
Facing South  
DOT#544-765D





Oyster Road  
Facing West  
DOT#544-765D



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

**Date of Assignment:** October 30, 2019

**Date of Inspection:** November 21, 2019

**Subject:** 19-1891-RR-RCP – Petition for exemption South Range Road, Mahoning County, Norfolk Southern Corporation.

**DOT #:** 544-764W

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**FINDINGS**

On receipt of the present assignment, I conducted an inspection of the crossing on November 21, 2019. The Mahoning County Engineer is seeking an exemption for the grade crossing under Ohio Revised Code 4511.63.

On the above noted day, I inspected the highway rail grade crossing which is located near Alliance. Upon inspection I found a two lane roadway that travels east and west with a highway rail grade crossing owned by Norfolk Southern Railroad and runs northeast and southwest. The crossing has no warning signs at present time.

On October 31, 2019, I sent an email to Norfolk Southern Railroad. I advised them of the application for exemption and requested information on the railroads train traffic over the line. The railroad advised: This line has been classified as out of service and they do not currently operate on this track. This crossing is inaccessible to trains, and have not contacted me on any further acceptance or objection.

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

Currently this line has been classified by the Railroad as out of service and they do not currently operate on this track. This crossing is inaccessible to trains.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

In view of the foregoing findings and conclusion, I recommend the commission grant the exemption as requested. The railroad should also be placed on notice that any future train movements over the grade crossing will be required to be flagged per their operating rules.

L. Kevin Lesh  
PUCO Railroad Inspector1  
Date: December 2, 2019





South Range  
Facing North  
DOT#544-764W





South Range  
Facing East  
DOT#544-764W





South Range  
Facing West  
DOT#544-764W





South Range  
Facing South  
DOT#544-764W



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

**Date of Assignment:** March 29, 2019

**Date of Inspection:** April 09, 2019

**Subject:** 18-1902-RR-RCP– Petition for exemption, Weaver Road, Beloit, Mahoning County, Norfolk Southern Corporation.

**DOT #:** 502-477T

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**FINDINGS**

On receipt of the present assignment, I conducted an inspection of the crossing on April 09, 2019. The Mahoning County Engineer is seeking an exemption for the grade crossing under Ohio Revised Code 4511.63.

On the above noted day, I inspected the highway rail grade crossing which is located near Berlin Center. Upon inspection I found a two lane roadway that travels north and south, with a highway rail grade crossing owned by Norfolk Southern Railroad and runs north east and south west. The crossing has one standard crossbuck and one yield sign.

On April 24, 2019 I sent an email to Norfolk Southern Rail. I advised them of the application for exemption and requested information on the railroads train traffic over the line. The railroad advised the crossing has not had any rail traffic in years and does not expect to see any in the near future.

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

Currently the railroad does not have any traffic over the crossing. There is no expectation of traffic over the line in the near future. And the railroad has no objection to Exemption being granted.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

In view of the foregoing findings and conclusion, I recommend the commission grant the exemption as requested. The railroad should also be placed on notice that any future train movements over the grade crossing will be required to be flagged per their operating rules.

L. Kevin Lesh  
PUCO Rail Inspector  
Date: November 12, 2019



Weaver Road  
DOT#502-477T  
Looking North





Weaver Road  
DOT#502-477T  
Looking South





Weaver Road  
DOT#502-477T  
Looking East





Weaver Road  
DOT#502-477T  
Looking West





## STAFF RECOMENDATIONS

PUCO Rail Staff recommends the following actions be taken:

- 1) Approve the exemption requests for the crossings to prevent vehicles from stopping at each crossing, since no train traffic is on the tracks.
- 2) Require the operating railroad to place a stop and flag order on each crossing if train movements begin over the crossings.
- 3) If train traffic begins at the crossings, require operating railroad to notify the Commission, so that the exemption status can be reviewed to verify if it should remain in place.
- 4) Require staff to conduct a follow-up inspection to verify that exemptions signs are posted and to update the rail database.

## DATABASE INFORMATION

Detailed database crossing information for this location can be found at

<https://gradecrossings.puco.ohio.gov>.

or at these specific links:

<https://gradecrossings.puco.ohio.gov/crossing/3277;guid=db36bcca-b352-4a5d-9903-c421fec97587>

<https://gradecrossings.puco.ohio.gov/crossing/3278;guid=2440ed4a-2cf7-4fc7-80e4-dc505bb424a1>

<https://gradecrossings.puco.ohio.gov/crossing/3279;guid=c84249b1-8c12-4948-a1f8-aef632cee7b9>

<https://gradecrossings.puco.ohio.gov/crossing/3280;guid=2617ab67-1d61-44c1-9c24-62563c7417aa>

<https://gradecrossings.puco.ohio.gov/crossing/14489;guid=8567491f-0461-4e12-92cd-7cd053bcec10>

<https://gradecrossings.puco.ohio.gov/crossing/3281;guid=dc602638-741e-429d-afa4-1c23192f3ff1>

<https://gradecrossings.puco.ohio.gov/crossing/3282;guid=525ff586-6263-4239-bb0b-13275766419f>

<https://gradecrossings.puco.ohio.gov/crossing/3283;guid=2ad5f883-ee1b-4282-bc1c-54f7e2857869>

<https://gradecrossings.puco.ohio.gov/crossing/3397;guid=94f6ccdc-1a7c-40e4-b4fc-7cd17d3861db>

<https://gradecrossings.puco.ohio.gov/crossing/3215;guid=bd1fed9a-7849-4b23-8f6e-46d75638f330>

<https://gradecrossings.puco.ohio.gov/crossing/83;guid=078e1a94-6ab2-42df-a104-800cc637e793>

<https://gradecrossings.puco.ohio.gov/crossing/85;guid=5ee3495b-548d-411e-b2a7-02c96d43d4ba>



## **OTHER INFORMATION**

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

Ohio is a national leader in terms of railroad operations. Ohio is home to nearly 36 railroads that operate thousands of trains in Ohio every day over approximately 5,000 miles of track and 5,700 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 obstructions, fencing and drainage concerns. Additionally, inspections are conducted on railroad equipment at rail yards and other facilities and they review safety concerns of both the PUCO and railroad employees.

### **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 15 years, the PUCO has participated in the installation of lights and gates at more than 3,300 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  
Mike DeWine, Governor  
Sam Randazzo, Chairman

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

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Summary: Staff Report Filed In the Matter of a Request by the Mahoning County Engineer and the Village of Sebring for an Exemption from Stopping for School Buses and Hazardous Materials Vehicles at 12 Railroad Crossings in Mahoning County. electronically filed by Mrs. Jill A Henry on behalf of PUCO/Rail Division