

FILE

MILTON TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE'S

P.O. BOX 205 STERLING, OHIO 44276

May 12, 2003

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
C/O Bonnie J. Johrendt
Grade Crossing Planner
Transportation Department
Railroad Division

2003 MAY 15 PM 3:57
PUCO

Reference Case # 02-3052-RR-UNC

TO: Members of the PUCO
C/O Ms. Bonnie J. Johrendt

The Milton Township Trustee's would like to go on public record strongly opposing the closing of the Rail Road crossing located on Shorle Road in Milton Township, Wayne County, Ohio.

We believe the closing of Shorle Road would place many inconvenient burdens, as well as causing many economic and safety concerns for the citizens of Milton Township. Listed below are specific reasons why the crossing should not be closed.

Many farmers in the area use this crossing to move equipment to fields and to move their products from harvest to local grain mills for sale. The time lost and the economic impact would be very detrimental to these farmers. If the crossing is closed, safety of the farmers becomes a major concern because as they will be required to access (turn unto) county route 504 and state route 604 with very slow moving farm equipment. This would cause a major safety hazard both for farmers and traffic traveling along these state routes.

Other safety issues include, fire equipment and ambulances access to Shorle Road. Emergency equipment would be required to go miles out of their way to provide emergency services to the people who live on and around Shorle Road as well as others in the adjacent area. Our emergency safety officials are very concerned about the time it would take our safety forces to reach the area in an emergency. The Shorle Road area is located in a flood plain so access to this area in a flood emergency would be seriously hampered.

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 Amr Date Processed 5/15/03

Shorle Rode is an access road from several state routes to the recently opened Western Reserve National Cemetery. The north end of Shoral Road is less than one mile from the entrance to the National Cemetery. Shorle Road has picked up a large amount of travel volume since the new National Cemetery has opened.

School Bus routes will need to be altered and time extended for pick up of school children along Shrole Road and the surrounding area. This would require school busses to leave at an earlier time to pick up children living in the area. Also, we (the Trustee's) would have to provide and maintain a turn around spot for the busses on each side of the closed crossing.

Snow removal equipment operators would be required to go miles out of their way to clear the roads on each end of the closed crossing for the winter traffic.

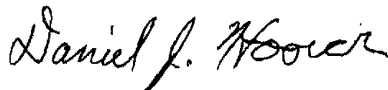
The Milton Township Trustee's hope that the PUCO Commissioners will give careful consideration to the concerns we have listed and the impact it will have on the citizens of Milton Township. It is our fervent hope that your ruling will be NOT to close the Shorle Road Rail Road crossing. Please feel free to contact any of the Trustee's if you have further questions. Thank you for you consideration on this issue.

Respectively,
Milton Township Trustees

Ben J. Imhoff President (330) 925-4087



Daniel J. Hoover (330) 925-1214



Thomas E. Leatherman (330) 925-2926

