

FILE

**Public Utilities
Commission of Ohio**

Memo

To: Docketing Division
From: George Martin, Grade Crossing Planner, Rail Division *gmd*
Re: PUCO Case No. 10-2354-RR-RCP
Date: October 20, 2010

Please docket the attached staff report in the above referenced case.

PUCO

2010 OCT 20 PM 12:49

RECEIVED-DOCKETING DIV



The Public Utilities
Commission of Ohio

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

October 20, 2010



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

The Cuyahoga Falls City Schools is a public school district in Summit County. It is comprised of ten schools in the City of Cuyahoga Falls and the Village of Silver Lake with an enrollment of roughly 5,300 students.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

On October 13, 2010, the Cuyahoga Falls City Schools filed under Case No. 10-2354-RR-RCP, a request for exempt crossing status under Revised Code 4511.63 for the following grade crossings:

Graham Road, Village of Silver Lake, DOT# 503578H

Hudson Drive, Cuyahoga Falls, DOT# 503580J

Front Street/SR 59, Cuyahoga Falls, DOT# 503581R

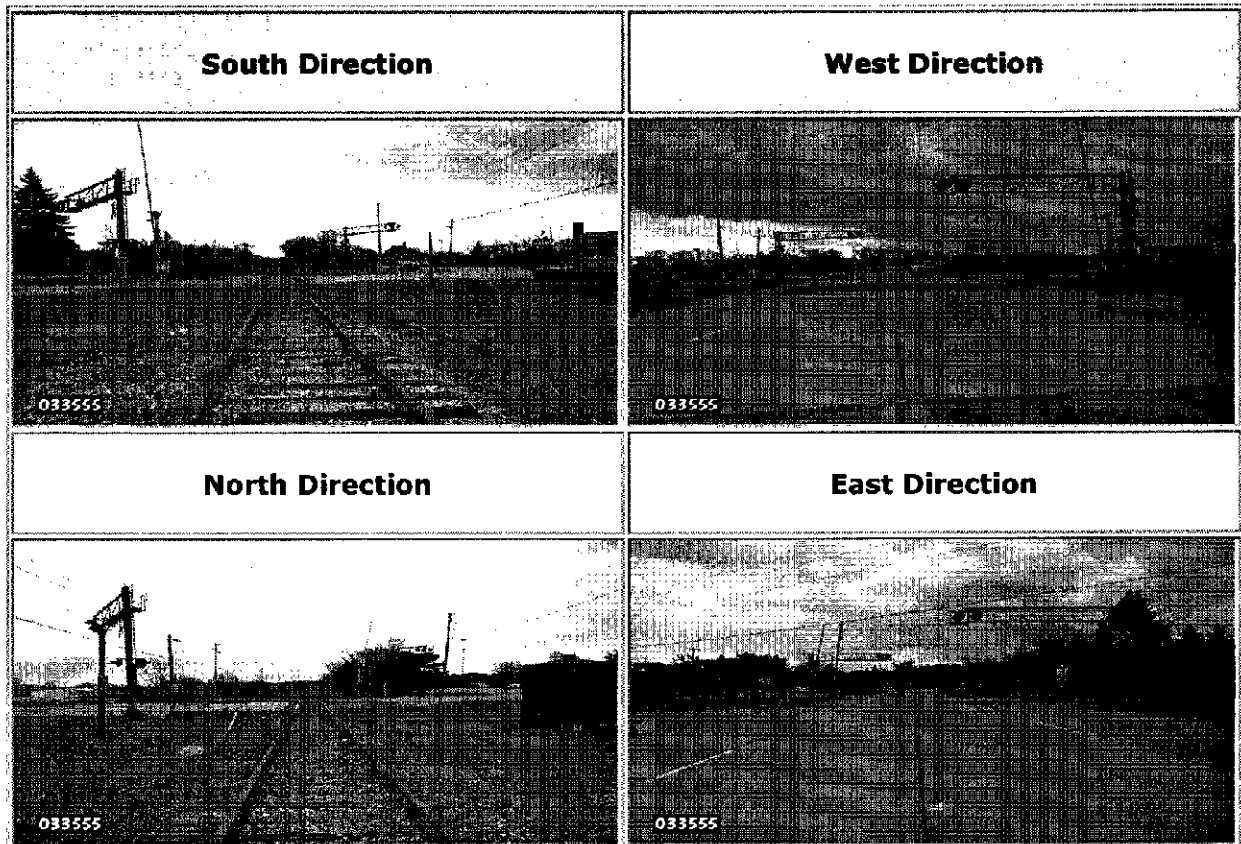
The crossings are owned and maintained by the Metro Regional Transit Authority (MRTA).

III. Photo's from RRIS Database



Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

Record ID: 3108



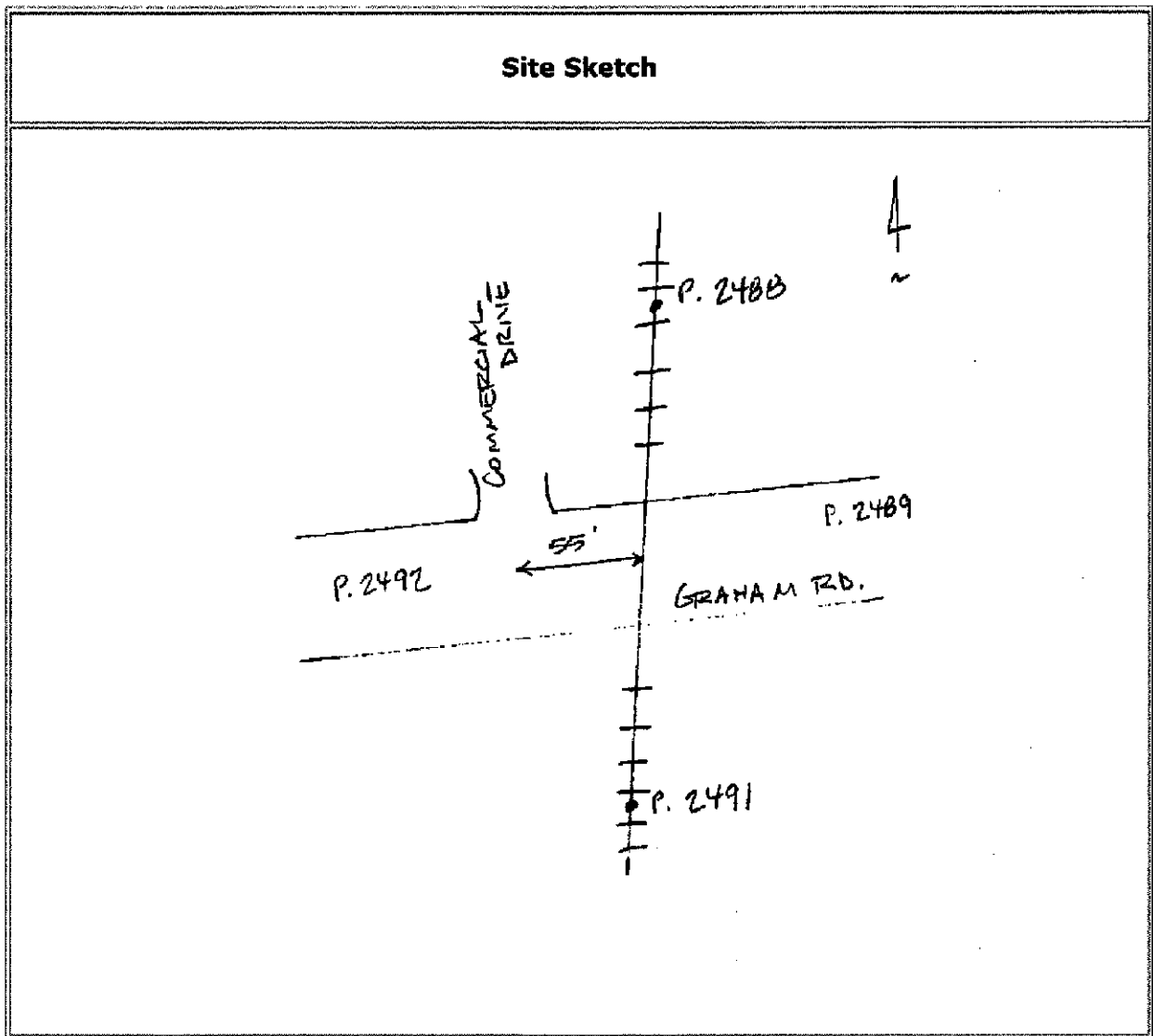
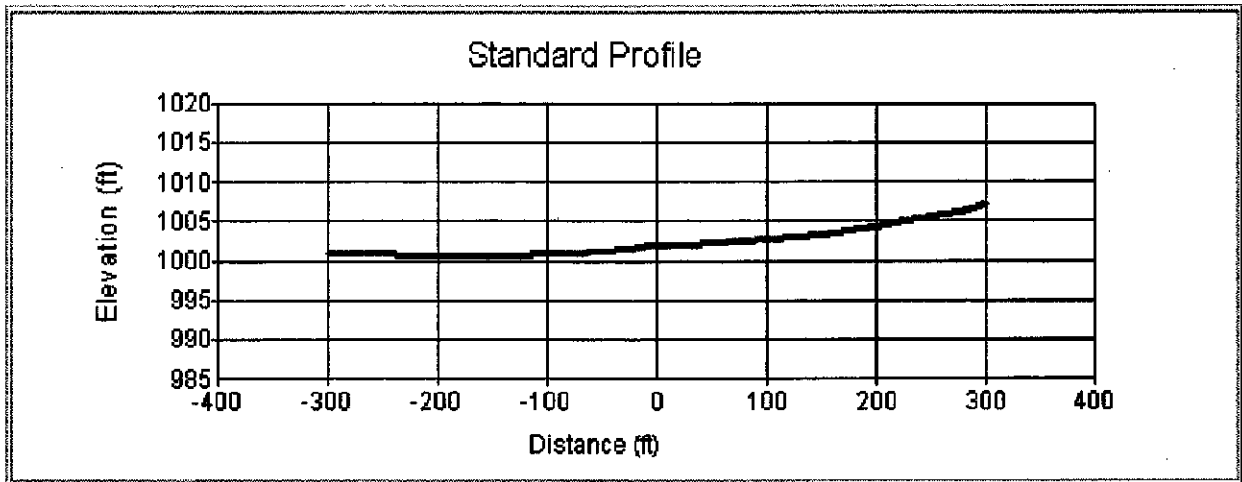
Site Information	
AARDOT:	503578H
AARDOT Source:	Database
Adj. AARDOT:	
Adj. AARDOT Source:	Field
Survey Site ID:	SUM264
Init. Agency for Change:	State
Reason for Change:	Updated Record
Effective Date:	Sep 28 2010 12:00AM

Railroad Information	
Operating RR:	Metro Regional Transit Authority
Division:	PITTSBURGH
Sub-Division:	YOUNGSTOWN
Branch/Line Name:	AKRON SEC
Milepost:	5.74
Railroad ID:	402421
Nearest Time Table Station:	HUDSON
Parent RR Company:	
Crossing Owner:	
Location and Classification Information	
County:	SUMMIT
(Nearest) City:	SILVER LAKE
Street:	GRAHAM RD
Highway and SLM:	
High Speed Corridor:	
County Map Ref. Number:	SILVERLAKE
ODOT NLF ID:	MSUMMR03222**C
Latitude:	41.1639807
Longitude:	-81.4692654
Elevation (ft):	1001.84
Crossing Type:	Public
Position:	At-Grade
Emergency Contact:	
Railroad Contact:	
State Contact:	
LHA:	VILLAGE OF SILVER LAKE
LHA2:	
Dev. Type:	Commercial
Crossing Angle:	60-90 Degrees

Tracks:	1
Lanes:	4
Warning Devices	
Crossbucks, Standard:	2
Crossbucks, Buckeye:	0
Lights, Mast Mounted:	2
Lights, Cantilevered:	2
Lights, Other:	0
Gates:	1
Traffic Information	
Day Thru Trains:	0
Day Switching Trains:	0
Night Thru Trains:	0
Night Switch Trains:	0
Date of Train Count:	
Highway AADT:	30412
Date of AADT:	2006

Highway Information	
Distance to Nearest Intersection:	55
Type of Intersection:	Commercial Drive
Number of HW-HW Intersections:	0

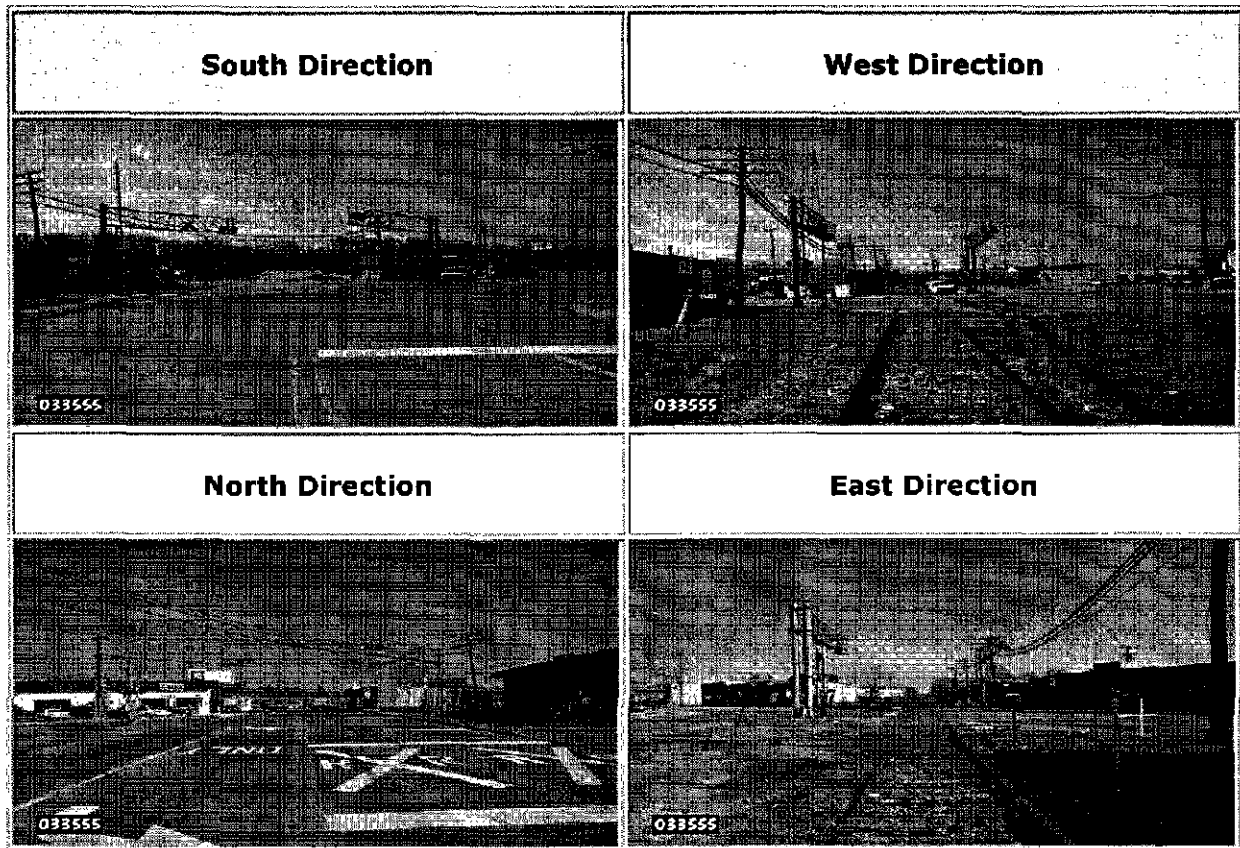
Site Comments	
No comments.	





Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

Record ID: 3109



Site Information	
AARDOT:	503580J
AARDOT Source:	Database
Adj. AARDOT:	
Adj. AARDOT Source:	Field
Survey Site ID:	SUM266
Init. Agency for Change:	State
Reason for Change:	Updated Record

Effective Date:	Oct 13 2010 12:00AM
Railroad Information	
Operating RR:	Metro Regional Transit Authority
Division:	PITTSBURGH
Sub-Division:	YOUNGSTOWN
Branch/Line Name:	AKRON SEC
Milepost:	6.95
Railroad ID:	402421
Nearest Time Table Station:	PAYNE
Parent RR Company:	
Crossing Owner:	
Location and Classification Information	
County:	SUMMIT
(Nearest) City:	CUYAHOGA FALLS
Street:	HUDSON DR
Highway and SLM:	
High Speed Corridor:	
County Map Ref. Number:	
ODOT NLF ID:	MSUMMR02360**C
Latitude:	41.1473275
Longitude:	-81.4722194
Elevation (ft):	1016.828
Crossing Type:	Public
Position:	At-Grade
Emergency Contact:	
Railroad Contact:	
State Contact:	
LHA:	CITY OF CUYAHOGA FALLS
LHA2:	
Dev. Type:	Commercial

Crossing Angle:	30-59 Degrees
Tracks:	1
Lanes:	4
Warning Devices	
Crossbucks, Standard:	3
Crossbucks, Buckeye:	0
Lights, Mast Mounted:	2
Lights, Cantilevered:	2
Lights, Other:	0
Gates:	2
Traffic Information	
Day Thru Trains:	0
Day Switching Trains:	0
Night Thru Trains:	0
Night Switch Trains:	0
Date of Train Count:	
Highway AADT:	13628
Date of AADT:	2006

Highway Information	
Distance to Nearest Intersection:	56
Type of Intersection:	Highway
Number of HW-HW Intersections:	2

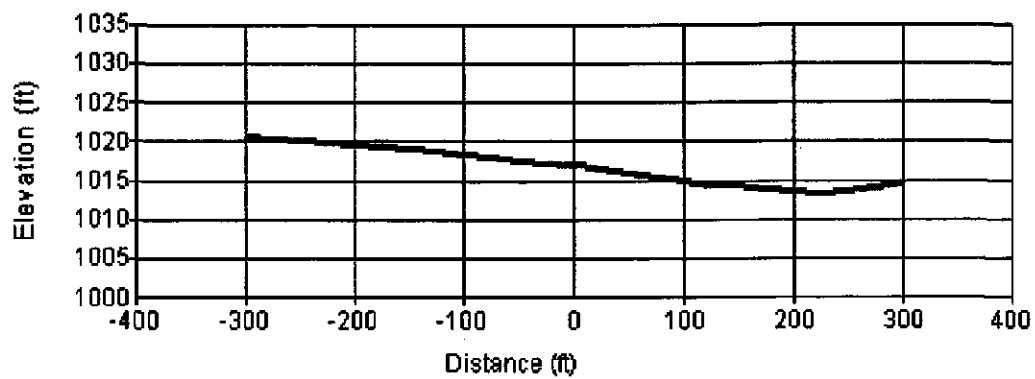
Highway 1:		Highway 2:	
Traffic Light:	NO	Traffic Light:	YES
Flashing Light:	NO	Flashing Light:	NO
Stop Sign:	YES	Stop Sign:	NO

Yield Sign:	NO	Yield Sign:	NO
Distance from Tie to Center of Intersection:	56	Distance from Tie to Stop Bar:	110
DO NOT STOP ON TRACK(S) Sign:	NO	DO NOT STOP ON TRACK(S) Sign:	NO

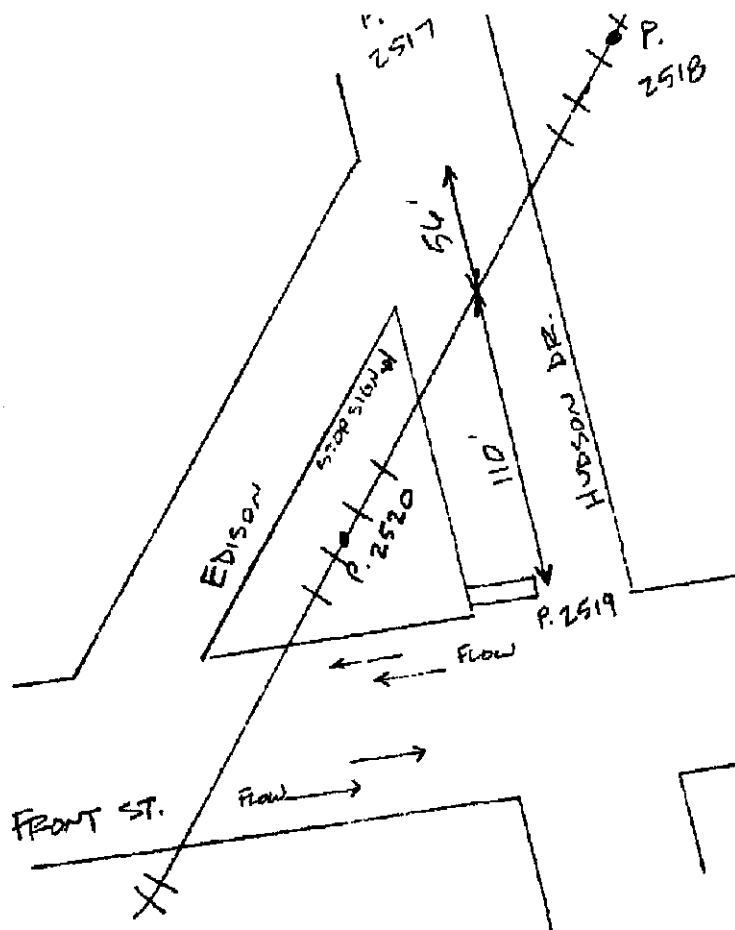
Site Comments

No comments.

Standard Profile



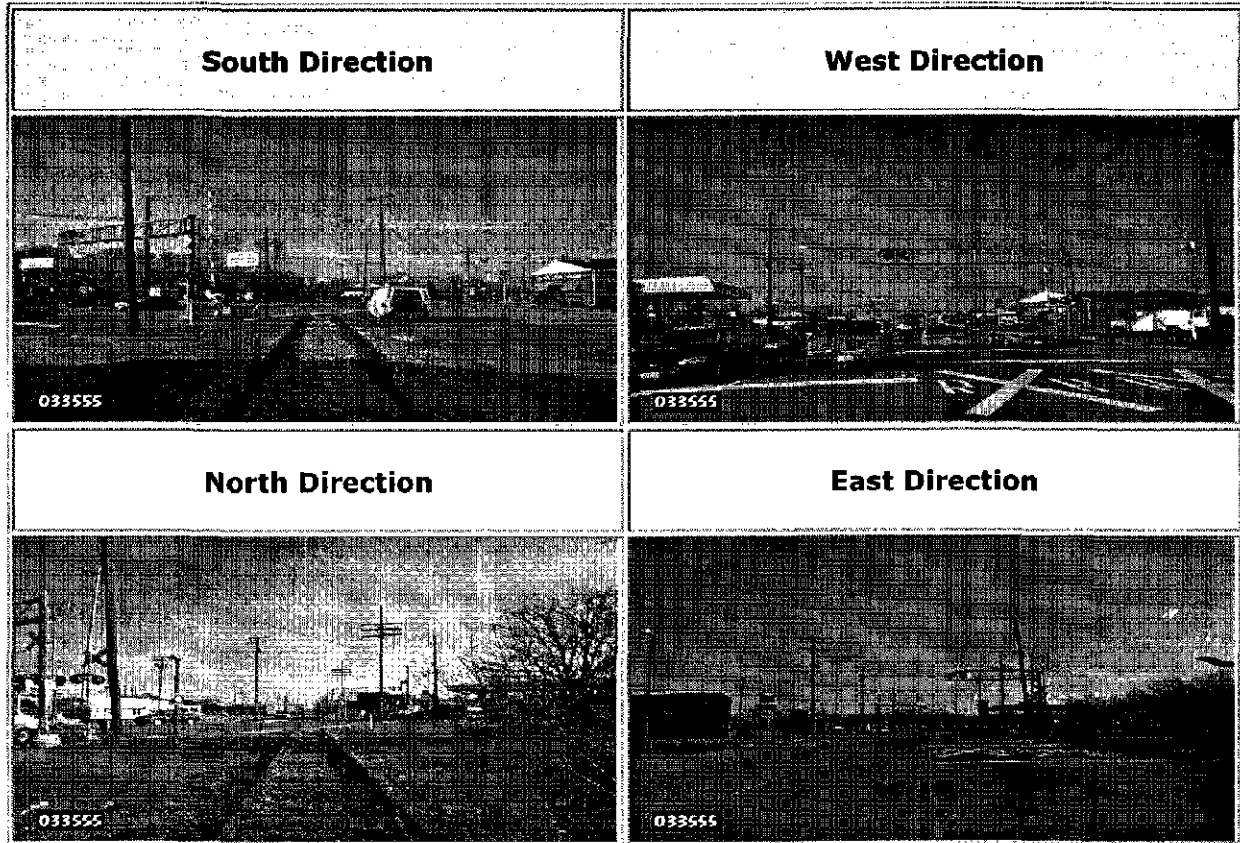
Site Sketch





Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

Record ID: 3110



Site Information	
AARDOT:	503581R
AARDOT Source:	Database
Adj. AARDOT:	
Adj. AARDOT Source:	Field
Survey Site ID:	SUM265
Init. Agency for Change:	State

Reason for Change:	Updated Record
Effective Date:	Sep 28 2010 12:00AM
Railroad Information	
Operating RR:	Metro Regional Transit Authority
Division:	PITTSBURGH
Sub-Division:	YOUNGSTOWN
Branch/Line Name:	AKRON SEC
Milepost:	7.01
Railroad ID:	402421
Nearest Time Table Station:	PAYNE
Parent RR Company:	
Crossing Owner:	
Location and Classification Information	
County:	SUMMIT
(Nearest) City:	CUYAHOGA FALLS
Street:	FRONT ST
Highway and SLM:	SR59-5.04
High Speed Corridor:	
County Map Ref. Number:	CUYHG FLLS
ODOT NLF ID:	SSUMSR00059**C
Latitude:	41.1461245
Longitude:	-81.4725916
Elevation (ft):	1015.932
Crossing Type:	Public
Position:	At-Grade
Emergency Contact:	
Railroad Contact:	
State Contact:	
LHA:	STATE
LHA2:	CITY OF CUYAHOGA FALLS

Dev. Type:	Commercial
Crossing Angle:	30-59 Degrees
Tracks:	1
Lanes:	4
Warning Devices	
Crossbucks, Standard:	3
Crossbucks, Buckeye:	0
Lights, Mast Mounted:	2
Lights, Cantilevered:	2
Lights, Other:	0
Gates:	2
Traffic Information	
Day Thru Trains:	0
Day Switching Trains:	0
Night Thru Trains:	0
Night Switch Trains:	0
Date of Train Count:	
Highway AADT:	20080
Date of AADT:	2004

Highway Information	
Distance to Nearest Intersection:	0
Type of Intersection:	Commercial Drive
Number of HW-HW Intersections:	2

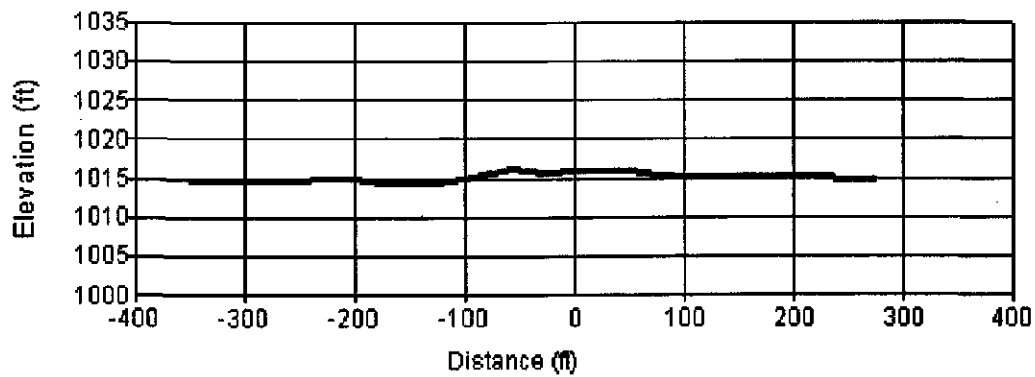
Highway 1:		Highway 2:	
Traffic Light:	YES	Traffic Light:	YES
Flashing Light:	NO	Flashing Light:	NO

Stop Sign:	YES	Stop Sign:	NO
Yield Sign:	NO	Yield Sign:	NO
Distance from Tie to Center of Intersection:	76	Distance from Tie to Center of Intersection:	175
DO NOT STOP ON TRACK(S) Sign:	NO	DO NOT STOP ON TRACK(S) Sign:	NO

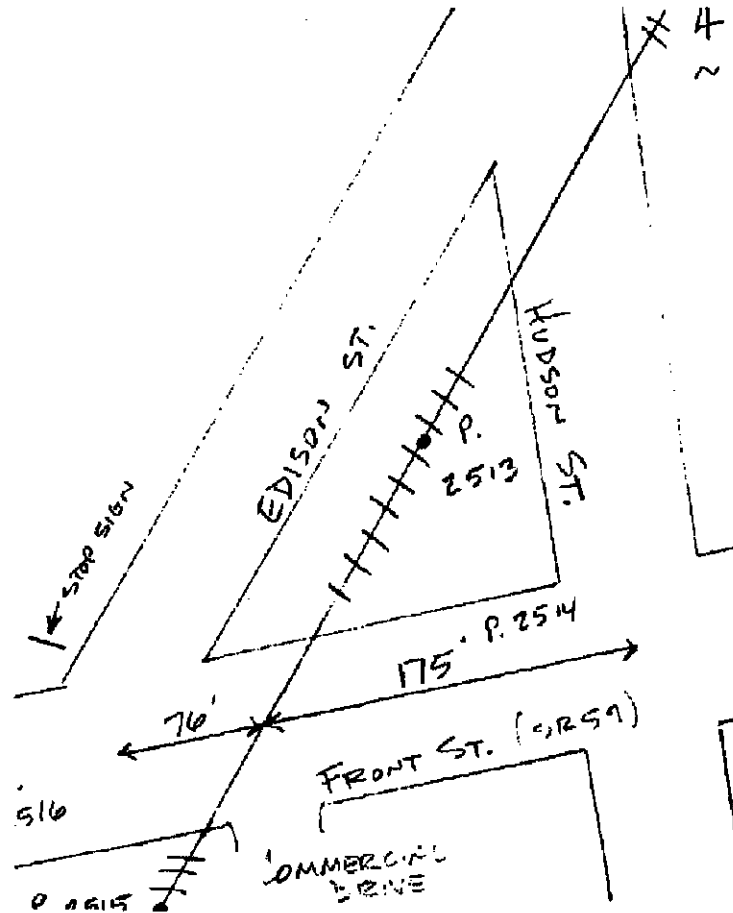
Site Comments

No comments.

Standard Profile



Site Sketch



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

Date of Assignment: October 13, 2010

Date of Inspection: October 13, 2010

Subject: 10-2354-RR-RCP: Request for Exempt Signs for Railroad Crossings of the Metro Regional Transit Authority at Graham Rd., Hudson Rd., and Front St. in Cuyahoga Falls.

DOT No. 503-578H; 503-580J; 503-581R

FINDINGS

At the request of the Cuyahoga Falls City Schools, an inspection (JRD-0035-000815) was conducted of Graham Rd., Hudson Rd., and Front St. for exempt signs. The crossings are owned and maintained by the Metro Regional Transit Authority (MRTA). At all three crossings the protection is overhead cantilevers with flashers and gates. All three road crossings have a single train track crossing them with heavy vegetation growing over the rails on both sides of each crossing, signifying no recent train traffic. Commission records confirm these crossings have been inactive since 2002.

Each of these crossings have a high volume of vehicle traffic over them and with all 22 school buses of the Cuyahoga Falls City Schools fleet having to stop at these crossings at least once each day with "flashing lights, stop and listen" to comply with Ohio Revised Code: 4511.63, the flow of vehicles is adversely affected.

Mr. Roger Bacon of the MRTA has advised the Commission that MRTA is in agreement with the request to grant an exemption to these crossings. MRTA may at a later date consider closing these three crossings.

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The three crossings have no train traffic at this time; MRTA, the owner and operator is in agreement with the request for exemption status to the three crossings. Granting exemption status will improve traffic flow in the area and allow the school bus fleet to proceed over the crossings without stopping.

The exemption should be granted.

Joe Dunn
PUCO/FRA Safety Inspector
October 19, 2010

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 6,000 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 for answers to all of your railroad crossing needs.

